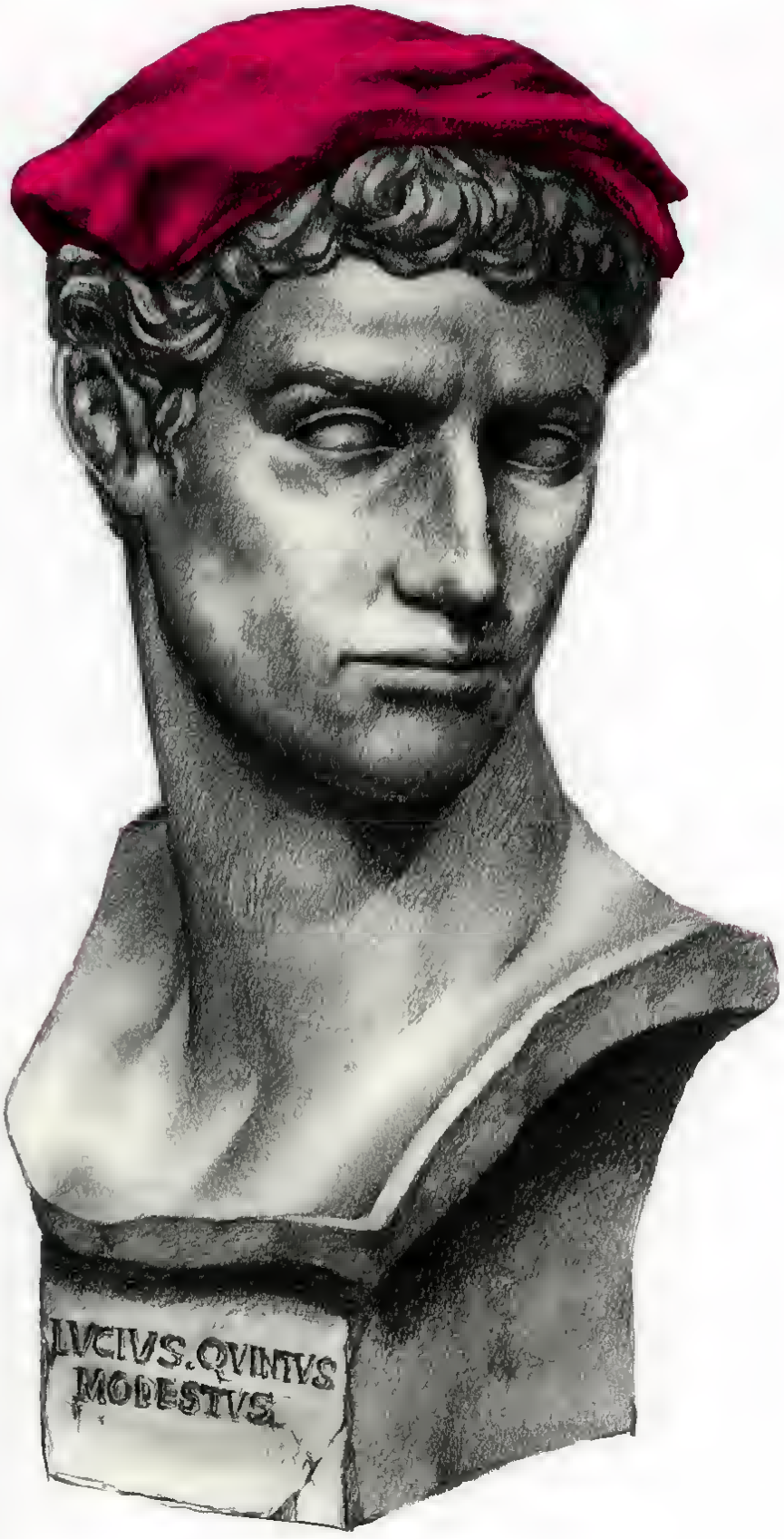
II


LVCIVS.QVINTVS
MODESTVS

II

A HISTORICAL COMEDY HIGHLIGHTING HISTORY'S MOST PASSIONATE BATH-LOVERS: THE ANCIENT ROMANS AND THE MODERN JAPANESE!

Whenever Roman architect Lucius is suddenly submerged in water, he always surfaces to find himself in the land of the "flat-faces," a people whose appreciation for the public bathhouse matches that of even the mighty Romans! (Little does he realize that the land of his watery journeys is in fact the Japan of 1,500 years in the future!) Observing the strange practices of these foreigners has allowed Lucius to revolutionize the Roman bathhouse, and public opinion on his innovations—and on Aelius Caesar, the emperor-to-be to whom these marvels are attributed—soars. But those in the Senate maintain strong reservations about the suitability of the emperor-to-be, and they mean to cut off the flow of support at its source—**LUCIUS!**

THERMAE ROMAE

MARI YAMAZAKI

II

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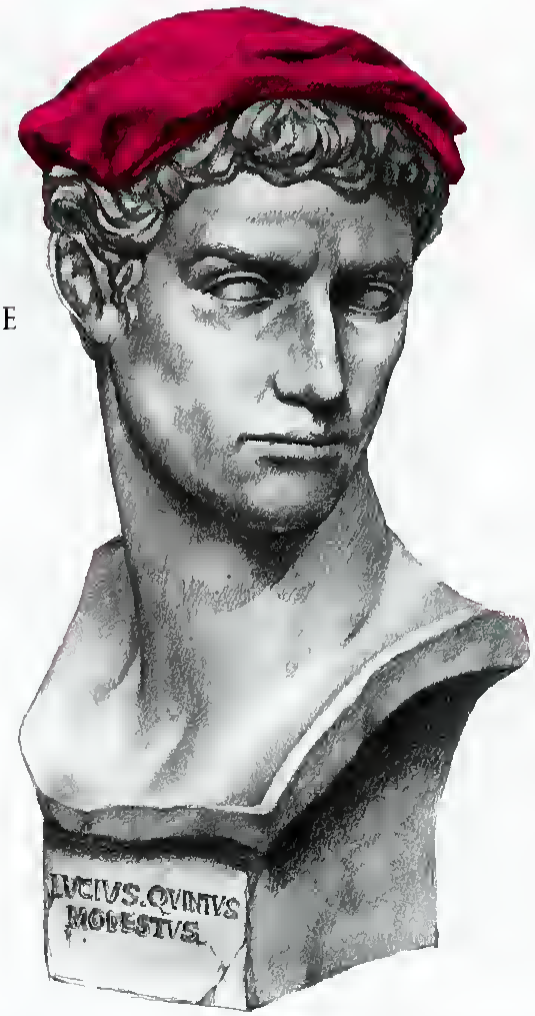
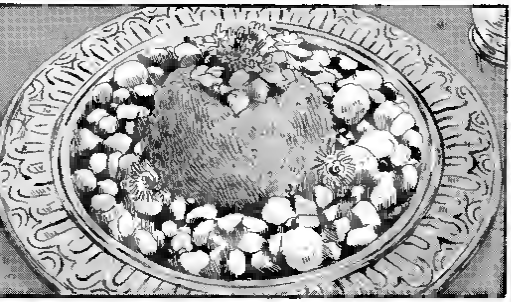
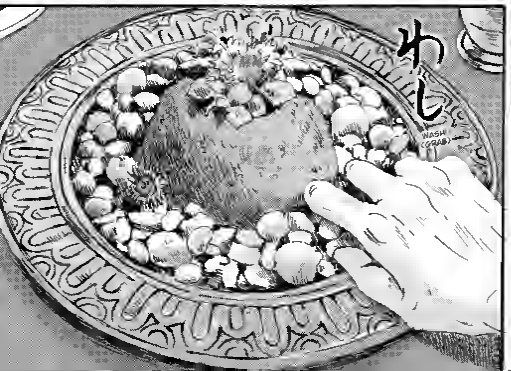
ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE
78, 110, 186, 220, 320, 374



Chapter 11



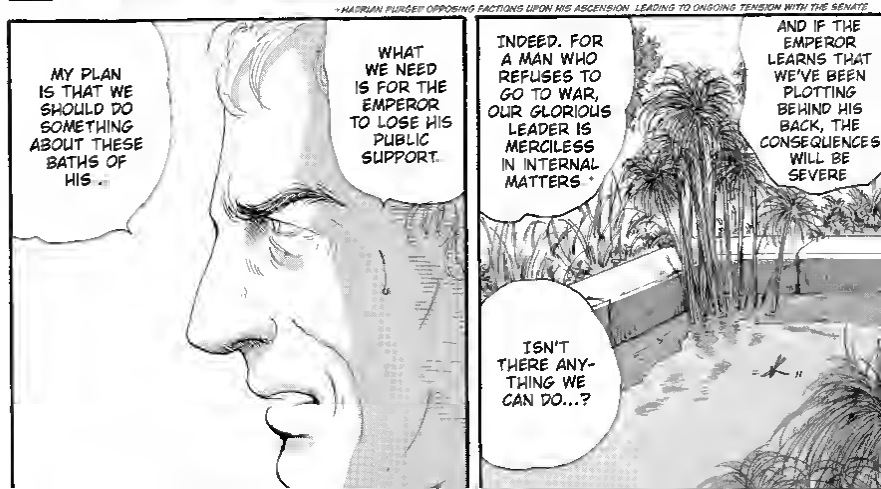


....
IT IS A MOCKERY...
OUR ONLY PURPOSE IS TO RATIFY THE EMPEROR'S DECISIONS.
IT'S AS THOUGH THE SENATE IS NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE AN OPINION...
EVEN NERO WOULD BE A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN HE...
IF AELIUS CAESAR EVER BECOMES THE EMPEROR, THEN ROME AS WE KNOW IT IS FINISHED!
THE MAN DOESN'T HAVE THE TINIEST SHRED OF MAJESTY ABOUT HIM! THE PEOPLE WILL NEVER LOVE HIM!!
HA! ONLY BECAUSE HADRIAN IS PULLING STRINGS IN HIS FAVOR!
BUT I HEAR HE IS POPULAR WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE...

FORGIVE ME, SENATOR... I WILL HAVE A FRESH FLAGON BROUGHT.
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH! I'VE RUN OUT OF WINE!
SALT-PICKLED URCHINS.
PARDON THE WAIT
...
COME, SERGIANUS! WHILE IT'S FRESH...
JUST POUR A BIT OF GARUM ON IT, AND...
THEY WERE BOUGHT FROM THE OSTIA HARBOR THIS MORNING.
OHH... LOOK AT THESE!!
I DID NOT COME HERE TO FEAST ON DELICACIES, ATTILIANUS!

...AND YOU SIT HERE FEASTING ON DAMNED SEA URCHINS!?
WE MUST ACT TODAY IF WE ARE TO PREVENT DISASTER BEFALLING ROME...
OH, COME NOW. SURELY YOU CAN ENJOY A GOOD URCHIN!
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE BECOME COMPLACENT AND LAZY.
IT'S TRUE THAT ROME HAS LACKED A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND URGENCY FOR MANY YEARS.
BUT WE STILL CAN'T RISK THE WRATH OF THE COMMON MAN
I AM WORRIED SICK ABOUT THE FATE OF ROME!!
OF COURSE... YOU ARE CORRECT, SERGIANUS.

*HADRIAN PURGED OPPOSING FACTIONS UPON HIS ASCENSION, LEADING TO ONGOING TENSION WITH THE SENATE.


MY PLAN IS THAT WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE BATHS OF HIS...
WHAT WE NEED IS FOR THE EMPEROR TO LOSE HIS PUBLIC SUPPORT.
INDEED. FOR A MAN WHO REFUSES TO GO TO WAR, OUR GLORIOUS LEADER IS MERCILESS IN INTERNAL MATTERS.*
AND IF THE EMPEROR LEARNS THAT WE'VE BEEN PLOTTING BEHIND HIS BACK, THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE SEVERE
ISN'T THERE ANY-THING WE CAN DO...?

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CITY'S THERMAE, ALL ATTRIBUTED TO AELIUS CAESAR.
THE PEOPLE LOVE THIS NEW, FLOURISHING BATHING CULTURE, WHICH FUELS AELIUS'S POPULARITY..
YES, THE THERMAE!
BATHS!?
HIS NAME IS LUCIUS QUINTUS MODESTUS.
HE IS HADRIAN'S PERSONAL THERMAE ARCHITECT.
AHH! YOU HAVE FOUND HIM?
IF WE CAN GET RID OF THE MAN BEHIND THIS POPULARITY...
WE MUST ELIMINATE THAT MAN IF WE ARE TO HELP THE PUBLIC REGAIN ITS SANITY!
..SO WE ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AT ITS CORE..
...THE PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE TRUTH.
.....
AS LONG AS HE WORKS FOR HADRIAN AND AELIUS...

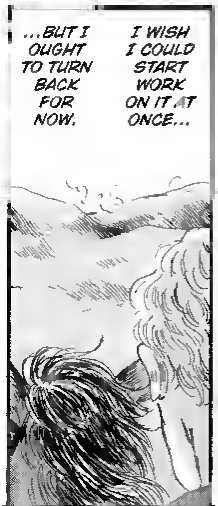
...AND YOUR PLAN?
I AM PLANNING SOMETHING THAT WILL CAST NO SUSPICION...
..BEFORE THE EMPEROR CREATES ANOTHER NOVELTY!
WE MUST TAKE BACK OUR IDEAL ROME
MOSSHA
MOSSHA
IT WOULD DO YOU SOME GOOD!
SERIOUSLY, WHEN WILL YOU GET YOURSELF ANOTHER WIFE?
LUCIUS'S HOME

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE... AND OF WOMEN!!
ALL I NEED IS A VISIT TO THE LUPANAR, AND I'M SET!
GA HA HA HA HA!
I THINK YOUR CONCERN WOULD BE BETTER APPLIED TO YOURSELF, MARCUS...
ME? I'M JUST FINE!!
IT'S HARD TO GET BY WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY AND THERE'S NO ONE TO COME HOME TO!
BUT YOU? YOU'RE DIFFERENT!
.....
コン コン
KON (KNOCK)
WHO IS CALLING AT THIS HOUR OF NIGHT..?
?
コン コン
KON (KNOCK)
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT YOUR OWN BUSINESS, AFTER ALL!
HOW ABOUT THIS? I'LL SET YOU UP WITH SOMEONE!
I'LL PASS FOR NOW, MARCUS.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE!
ENGINEER LUCIUS MODESTUS!

"PROCEED TO INLAND CAMPANIA AT ONCE...
"...TO THE BENEVENTUM AREA BEHIND VESUVIUS."
WHAT IS IT? AN ORDER FOR A NEW THERMAE?
...
THERE IS AN OBSCURE MINERAL WATER VEIN THERE..
THE EMPEROR, IN HIS ILL HEALTH, WISHES FOR A RESERVE TO BE BUILT THERE.
WHA—!? BUT THAT AREA'S DANGER-OUS!!
NO HONEST MAN DARES SET FOOT IN THE PLACE, AND YOU WANT TO GO ALONE?
BUT THERE ARE BANDITS AND ROGUES ALL OVER THOSE HILLS!
EMPEROR HADRIAN COMMANDS IT! I MUST GO.
I'LL NEED TO GO AND SEE THE AREA.
PROBABLY A MANSION RETREAT FOR THE EMPEROR AND AELIUS
. RE-SERVE?

THERE'S NO USE WORRYING, MARCUS!
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIS HIGHNESS IN MONTHS! I CANNOT SPURN HIS FIRST WORD TO ME AFTER SO LONG!
IF HIS HEALTH IS AN ISSUE, I CANNOT WASTE A MOMENT...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? YOU COULD BE KILLED, LUCIUS.
...BUT PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE CAREFUL, LUCIUS!
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I'LL LOCK UP.
I HATE TO ABANDON YOU LIKE THIS AFTER INVITING YOU TO DINNER..

PAKARA (CLOP)
ぱから


...BUT I OUGHT TO TURN BACK FOR NOW.
I WISH I COULD START WORK ON IT AT ONCE...

IT WILL BE HARD FOR ONE MAN TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FORSAKEN GROUND...
DUST SEEMS TO SHROUD THE LAND LIKE STEAM.

...BUT YOU WOULD NEVER IMAGINE IT TO LOOK AT THIS PLACE.
ROME IS NOT SO FAR FROM HERE, A GREAT METROPOLIS OF HUMANITY.

AAAH!
ガクッ
ビシュッ
ブヒヒヒン
AN ARROW !?
.....
HERE'S MY GREETING PARTY!!
.....

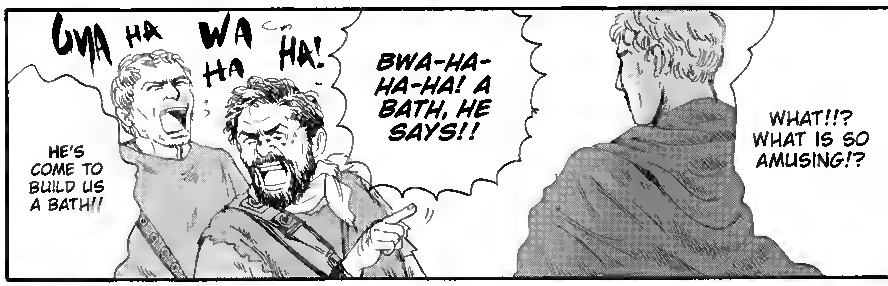
.....
.....
...
HEH
YOU DO NOT BAT AN EYE AT OUR APPEARANCE. A BRAVE MAN, YOU ARE...

TAKIN' MONEY AIN'T THE ONLY THING BANDITS DO...
WE LEAD A DULL LIFE...
.....
I HAVE NO MONEY TO GIVE YOU.
LOOK AT HIS HORSE! THAT'S A FINE STEED!
FWA HA HA HA!
..AND NOW WE FINALLY CATCH A TRAVELER! WE'LL NEED THE FULL COURSE OF WHAT YOU CAN OFFER, EH!?
YOU'RE JOKING! WHAT BUSINESS COULD YOU HAVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!? HA-HA-HA!
GA HA HA HA!
HUH? BUSINESS, EH!?
...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE WITH YOU!!
I'VE COME HERE ON URGENT BUSINESS FROM THE EMPEROR HIMSELF!

...

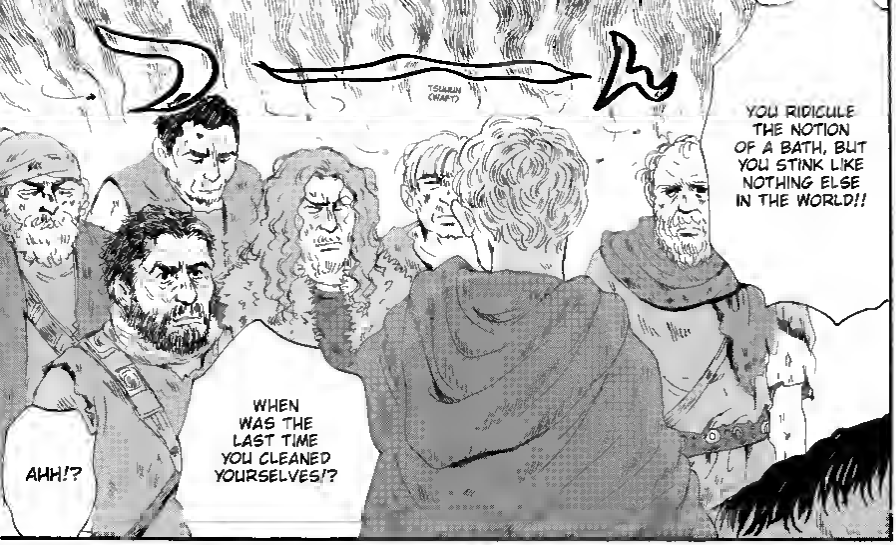
I AM TO BUILD A BATH HERE!!

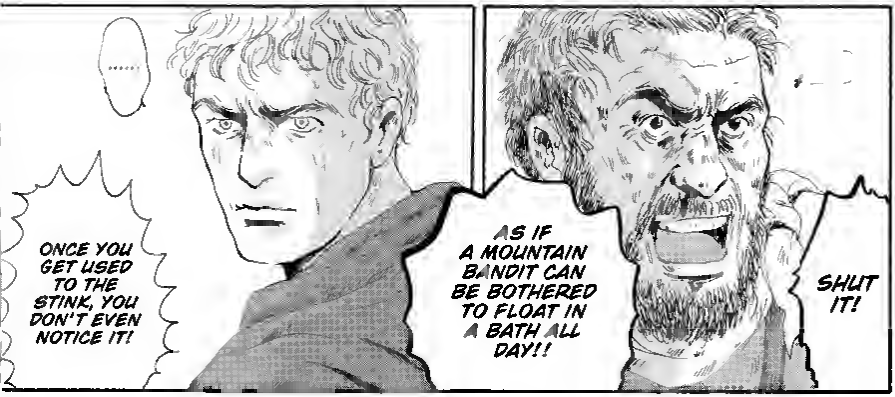
BWA HA HAHA HA!


BWA HA WA HA HA!
HE'S COME TO BUILD US A BATH!!
BWA-HA-HA-HA! A BATH, HE SAYS!!
WHAT!!? WHAT IS SO AMUSING!?

WA HA HA HA!
.....

THEY'VE SURE GOT HIM FOOLED!!
THAT'S A GOOD ONE!
HYA HYA HYA!


TSUMUN (HARP)
YOU RIDICULE THE NOTION OF A BATH, BUT YOU STINK LIKE NOTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD!!
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CLEANED YOURSELVES!?
AHH!?


.....
ONCE YOU GET USED TO THE STINK, YOU DON'T EVEN NOTICE IT!
AS IF A MOUNTAIN BANDIT CAN BE BOTHERED TO FLOAT IN A BATH ALL DAY!!
SHUT IT!

BLEH! BLARGH!
...
RUN
RUN (GRUMP)
I TAKE IT BACK— THESE CLOTHES DO STINK!!

WITH A STENCH THAT POWERFUL, YOUR VICTIMS WILL BE ALERTED TO YOUR EXACT WHEREABOUTS!!

YOU DWELL AMONG MOUNTAINS OF UNMATCHED TREASURE...
...AND YOU DO NOT EVEN REALIZE IT...
...
ENOUGH OF YOUR CHEEK!! SO WHAT IF WE SMELL!!?
HAND OVER YOUR HORSE AND ALL YOUR BELONGINGS!!
...TREASURE!?
TREASURE? HERE!?
WHAT KIND OF TREASURE!?
MAYBE THE EMPEROR BURIED A HOARD OF TREASURE IN THESE HILLS?
EXPLAIN YOURSELF!!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW...
..THEN FOLLOW ME!

JUST LOOK! IS IT NOT GLORIOUS!?
WHAT A RICH AND PLENTIFUL SPRING!
AND THE IDEAL TEMPER-ATURE!
JUST FEEL THE QUALITY OF THE WATER!
IT SEEMS TO SEEP INTO THE SKIN AT A MERE TOUCH!!
...
..
THIS WILL MAKE FOR A VERY GOOD BATH...

...THIS BURIED TREA-SURE!?
WHERE WILL WE FIND...
TREA-SURE..? DO YOU NOT SEE THE TREASURE BEFORE YOUR EYES ..?
HEY!
GU (SWORD)
.IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR HEAD!!
YOU'D BETTER PRODUCE THIS "TREASURE" RIGHT QUICK ..
I WILL NEED YOUR HELP..
SO...YOU THINK YOU'RE VERY FUNNY, DO YOU? LEADING US ON!?

KUKU (CHUCKLE)
HMPH
IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE TREASURE, I WILL NEED YOUR HELP!
.....
WE HAVE TO...HELP HIM ..!?
.....
HUH!?
BOKO (CRUNCH)
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!? MOVE, YOU SLUGS!!

...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MOVE THAT BOULDER FURTHER TO THE RIGHT!!
MORE! FURTHER RIGHT!!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL KILL HIM ONCE HE SHOWS US THIS TREASURE...
WE CAN'T DISOBEY THE LEADER'S ORDERS.
HUFF
HUFF
I CAN'T TAKE THIS HUMILIATION ANY LONGER!
.....
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!
HUH?
.....
GAFA (SYMBOL)
がふぁ

じゃぶ
WHAT'S HE DOIN'...?
じゃぶ
JABU GARGARA
じゃぶ
...
...
JUST AS I THOUGHT!! IT'S PERFECT!!

FUUHAAA
OFUROOO
I DON'T CARE ABOUT NOTHIN' NO MORE...
I CAN'T GET ENOUGH... IT'S LIKE POISON DRAINING OUTTA MY BODY..
I'VE BEEN REBORN
HAAAH
...
RIGHT, LEADER ...?
WHEN YOU SIT IN THIS HOT WATER, IT JUST SEEMS LIKE A WASTE OF TIME TO ATTACK PEOPLE.

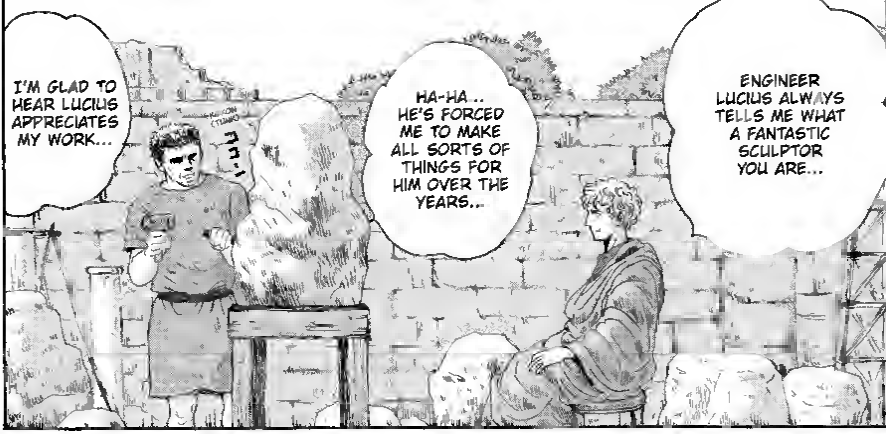
WE'RE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE LEFT WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO GO AFTER THE ERUPTION.* ATTACKING AND ROBBING IS THE ONLY MEANS WE HAVE TO SURVIVE!
BUT HOW ELSE ARE YOU GONNA SURVIVE IN SUCH A DESOLATE PLACE...?
*VESUVIUS'S FAMOUS ERUPTION THAT WIPED OUT POMPEII OCCURRED IN 79 AD. OVER HALF A CENTURY BEFORE THIS TIME
IT IS TOO SOON FOR PESSI-MISM!!
NOW THAT I'VE BATHED, MY HEART FEELS CLEANSED, BUT THAT'S ALL...
GOOD POINT...
WHAT KIND?
PLAN ?
I HAVE A PLAN!!
GURGLE (GLUP)
LOOK HOW MUCH WATER THERE IS. .
IF WE MAKE GOOD USE OF IT...
A PLAN THAT WILL BRING PEACE TO ALL!

どっぼん
DWAAH!!
AHH!
ごろり

THE CLUMSY OAF!!
GWA HA HA HA!
THE WHOLE BOULDER FELL IN!
WA HA HA!

BUKU (BUBBLE)
...HEY... WHY AIN'T HE COMIN' BACK UP!?
WAIT, WHERE'D HE GO!?
...

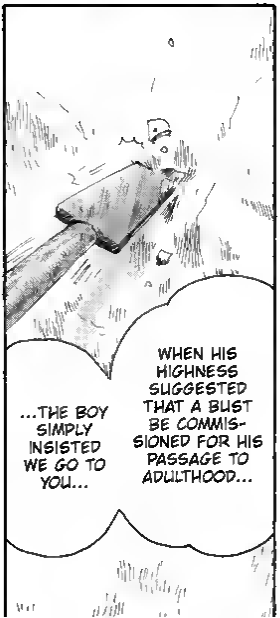
Chapter 12


I'M GLAD TO HEAR LUCIUS APPRECIATES MY WORK...
HA-HA.. HE'S FORCED ME TO MAKE ALL SORTS OF THINGS FOR HIM OVER THE YEARS..
ENGINEER LUCIUS ALWAYS TELLS ME WHAT A FANTASTIC SCULPTOR YOU ARE...

..BUT HIS GRANDFATHER AND EMPEROR HADRIAN HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD TO HIM.
THIS POOR BOY LOST HIS FATHER AT A YOUNG AGE..

HIS HIGHNESS AND LUCIUS AELIUS ARE CONCERNED AS WELL..
I HAVE NOT SEEN ENGINEER LUCIUS LATELY. IS HE WELL?

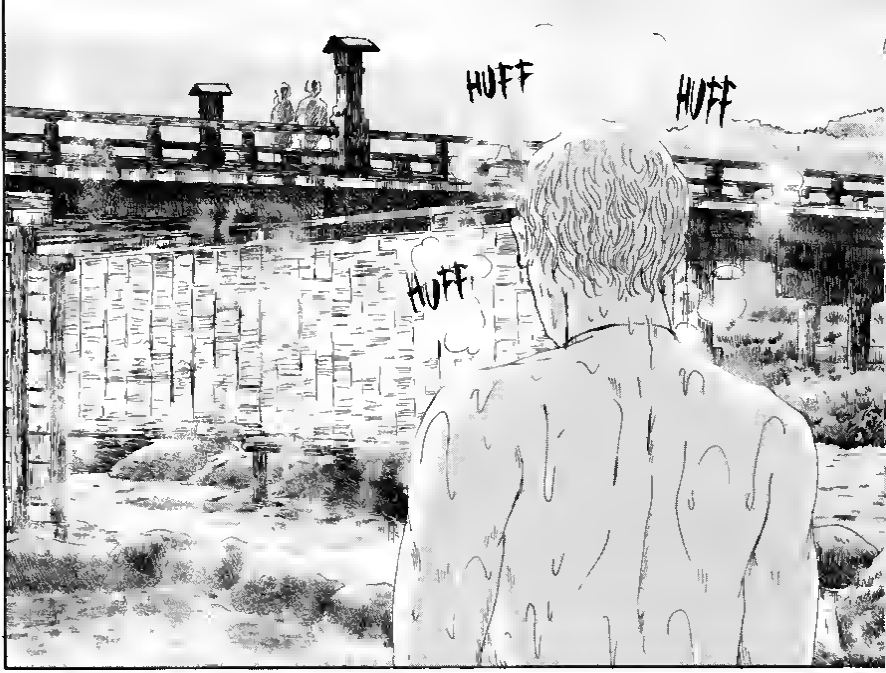
HUH?


...THE BOY SIMPLY INSISTED WE GO TO YOU...
WHEN HIS HIGHNESS SUGGESTED THAT A BUST BE COMMISSIONED FOR HIS PASSAGE TO ADULTHOOD...

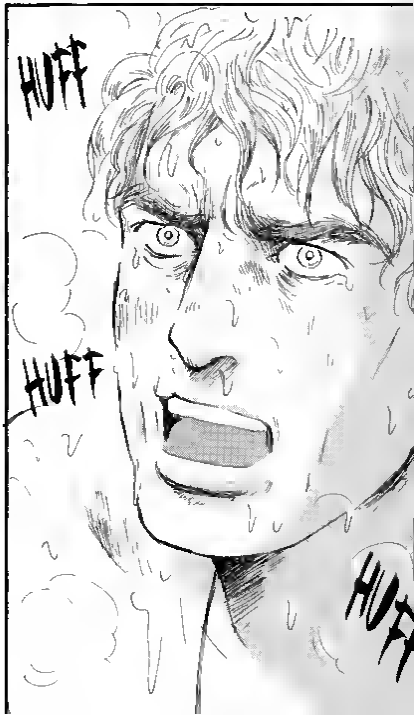
HE RECEIVED THE ORDERS FROM THE SENATE AND LEFT IMMEDIATELY...
HE WENT TO SCOUT LOCATIONS FOR A THERMAE AROUND WHICH A VILLA WOULD BE BUILT...
LUCIUS IS VISITING THE FOOTHILLS OF VESUVIUS AT THE REQUEST OF THE EMPEROR, ISN'T HE?
VESUVIUS...?
...
STRANGE...
WHAT ...!?
...
...I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.....!
IT WAS JUST LAST WEEK...
WHAT A SHAME.
...THAT HIS HIGHNESS INVITED LUCIUS TO DINNER, ONLY TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE THAT LUCIUS COULD NOT ATTEND DUE TO SICKNESS...

...TO GRANDFATHER VERUS'S HOME INSTEAD OF OURS!
MOTHER, SEND THE LECTICA ...
I WILL, MARCUS.
LET'S CALL OFF THE SESSION FOR TODAY!
GOOD IDEA...
GATA CTHUHO
*LECTICA: A ROMAN PALANQUIN FOR NOBLES
I HAVE A FEELING THERE COULD BE A CONSPIRACY AFOOT!!
ZA CRUNCH
I'M AFRAID ENGINEER LUCIUS COULD BE IN TERRIBLE DANGER!!
ガコン

(GLUB)
ゴボッ
ボコッ
...I CAN'T BREATHE!!
I...
I NEED TO FIND THE SURFACE!
NOW!!
バッシャア!
BWAAH!

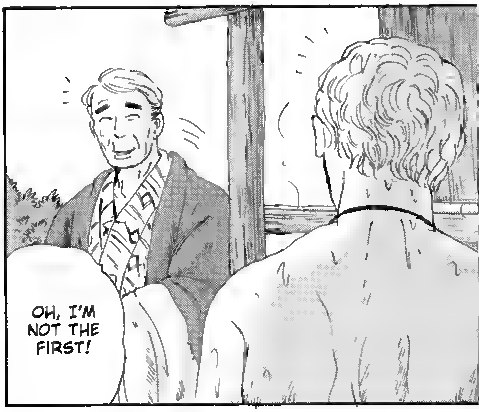

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

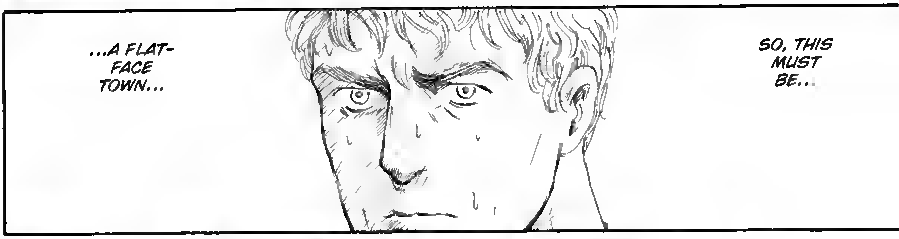
AH
HA
HA
HA.

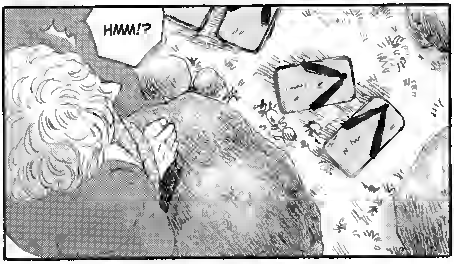

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

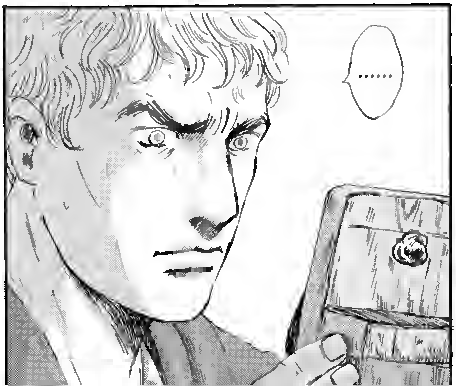
THE MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING THE AREA MUST BE VOLCANOES...
...AND THERE IS SPRING WATER LAPPING AGAINST THE RIVER-BANK...
THERE IS STEAM RISING HERE AND THERE...
A TOWN!?
BISHA (SLOSH)
ビシャ
!?
I DO NOT SEE ANY OTHER PEOPLE AROUND. COULD IT HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN AND LEFT HERE...?
THIS IS THE CLOTHING OF THE FLAT-FACES...

....
カラ〜ぁ
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S COOLED OFF A BIT, EH? THANK GOODNESS FOR SMALL MERCIES!

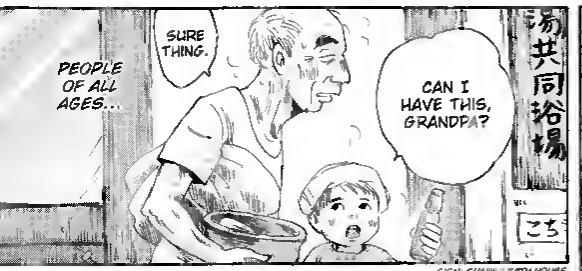

OH, I'M NOT THE FIRST!


...A FLAT-FACE TOWN...
SO, THIS MUST BE...


HMM!?


.....

THEN I SHALL BORROW THIS TOGA FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE!



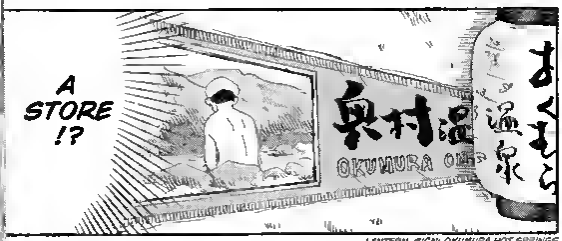
SIGN: SHARED BATH HOUSE

IT'S A CAREFREE ATMOSPHERE, SHROUDED BY THE STEAM OF THE SPRING WATER
THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF CRIME OR DANGER
HEE HEE!
KYA HA!

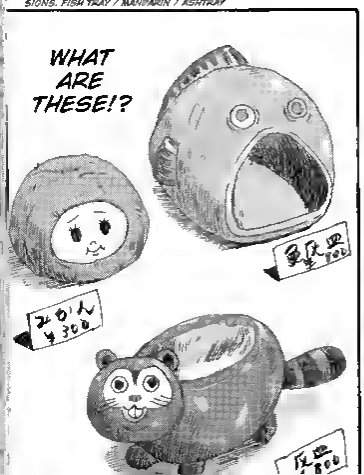
...THIS SYMBOL IS PRESENT...
EVERY TIME I SEE ONE OF THE FLAT-FACED THERMAE...
松の湯
ALSO...
...THIS SYMBOL, DISPLAYED ALL OVER...
...SEEM FRESHLY BATHED...
ALL THE PEOPLE WALKING THE STREET...
WHEW, THAT WAS A GOOD BATH!
FLAP: MATSU-NO-YU
SIGN: SOUVENIR SHOP
OH, DON'T FOOL YOURSELF! THIS IS FAR BETTER THAN ANYTHING YOU IMAGINED, LUCIUS...
IT'S MUCH LIKE THE SETTLEMENT I ENVISIONED AROUND VESUVIUS...
THIS MUST BE A TOWN SURROUNDED BY VOLCANOES...
おみやげ店
...YET ONE THAT THE FLAT-FACES HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED FOR THEMSELVES!
ANOTHER IDEA OF MINE THAT SEEMED SO GROUNDBREAKING...
PAIN (WAFT)
フ〜ン
PAIN

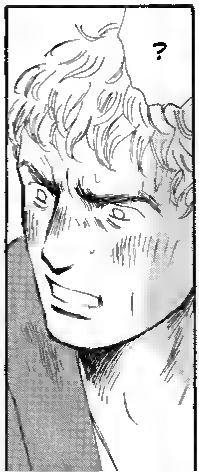
かぱ
KAPA (CHUWLIP)
THEY'RE FRESH AND DELICIOUS!
ふかあ〜
FUKAA (PLUFF)
STE RIGHT UP AND TRY YOUR HOT SPRING MANJU! HAVE A TASTE!
WHAT IS THAT SMELL!?
SIGN: OKUMURA SPECIALTY
PEOPLE SAY OURS ARE THE BEST IN TOWN!
...
MOFU (SQUISH)
もふ
TRY IT, FOREIGNER-SAN!
...
もふ
MOFU

...WHAT IS THIS...!? SOME FORM OF BREAD!?
WHA...
GREAT DIONY-SUS...
IF YOU LIKE IT, TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THE STORE!
IS THIS... BATH BREAD!?
AND BEHOLD, THE SYMBOL AGAIN...
GOKURI (GULP)
AND THIS IS WHERE THEY COOK THEM?
IF THEY HAVE THE THERMAE SYMBOL ON THEM, IT COULD MEAN THEY WERE STEAMED BY THE HOT SPRING.
PERHAPS THIS BREAD IS A SPECIAL VARIETY THAT CAN ONLY BE SAMPLED IN THIS PLACE.
SUCH JOY ON THEIR FLAT FACES...
AAAH, IT'S SO GOOD!
GOKURI (GULP)
PIPING FRESH!
OH MY GOD, LOOK! I BET THEY'RE SO YUMMY!
WE'LL TAKE TWO!



LANTERN SIGN: OKUMURA HOT SPRINGS





BOY
I RECOM MEND THAT ONE! HOO HOO!
IF ONLY I COULD TAKE ALL OF THESE THINGS HOME TO STUDY THEM ALAS, I CANNOT.
THE TOWN IS RICH AND LIVELY FROM SELLING THESE OBJECTS. .

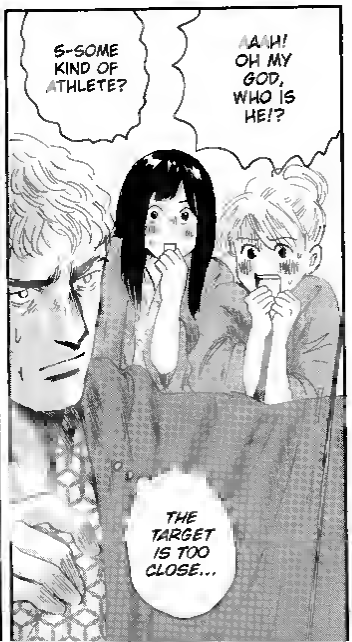
I'M GETTING HUNGRY, BUT I HAVE NOTHING I CAN EXCHANGE FOR FOOD.
HMM... THAT PLACE LOOKS LIVELY...
...BUT I DON'T SUPPOSE THEY'LL BE WORTH ANYTHING HERE...
I HAPPEN TO HAVE MY ROMAN COINS THAT I MANAGED TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE BANDITS...
COME, HAVE A TASTE!
SIGNS: BOW & ARROW GALLERY / WIN A PRIZE!
WA HA HA!
I'LL GET IT THIS TIME!
SIGN: ARCHERY GAME
SIGN: BOWS AROUND BACK
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO WIN!
YOU CAN DO IT!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE FOR?
EEEK! IT'S TOO HARD!
.....
HUH!? I COULD HAVE SWORN I HIT THAT HIKACHU...

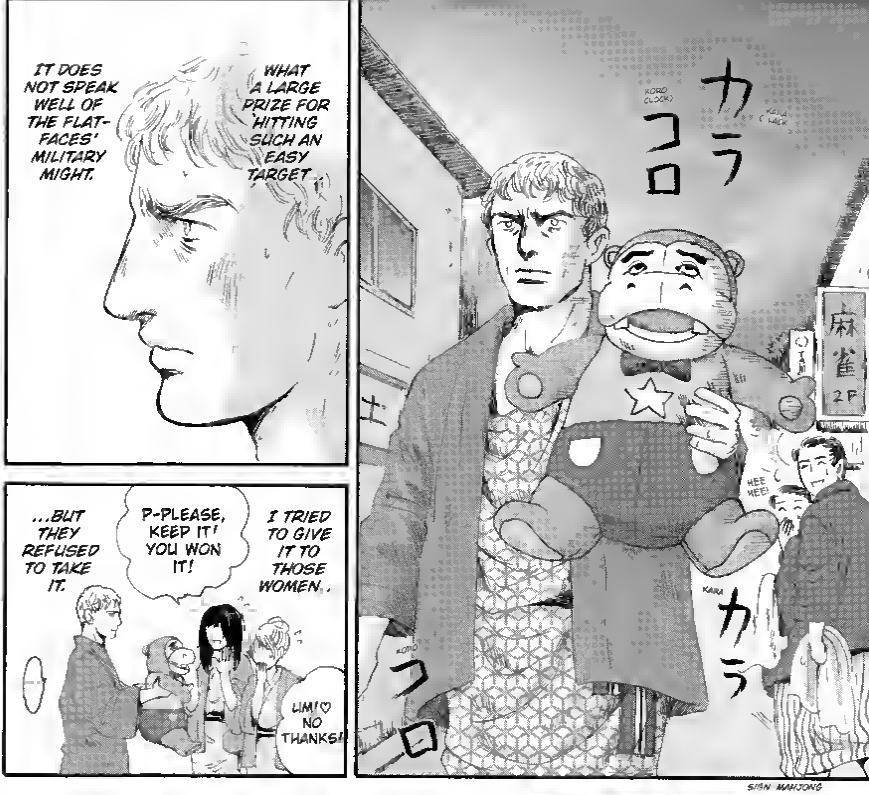
ARGH, YOU SEE!? I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
AWW, WHAT A WASTE!
I'M QUITTING THIS DUMB GAME!
YAH!
...
SHOULD WE JUST GIVE HIM THE REST OF OUR ARROWS?
MAYBE HE WANTS TO SHOOT THE BOW
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO USE THEM!
IF YOU SAY SO, MIKI
...
WHOA!
HE'S HOT..
HE'S WATCHING US..
DOES HE LOOK LIKE JUDE LAW TO YOU!?
AM I TO LOOSE THE ARROW AT THE CENTER OF THAT CIRCLE?
IT IS A RATHER FLIMSY BOW, BUT VERY WELL.
DOES SHE WANT ME TO SHOW HER THE BASICS?
HMM!?
UM, HERE!
YOU CAN USE THIS!♡ PLEASE, GO AHEAD!♡

カッ
カッ
カッ
ギ
GYUU (PULL)
ギ…ぃ…

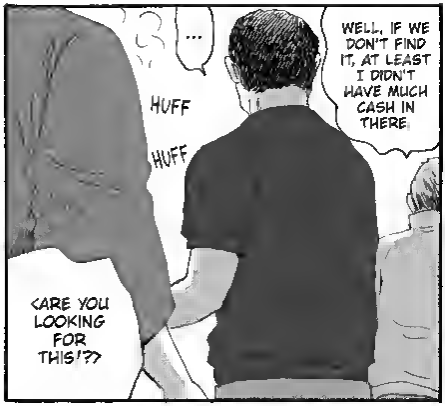
PACK
バチ
WELL, WELL, WELL!
BRILLIANT WORK, FOREIGNER-SAN!!
PACK (CLAP)
バチ

YAY, WAY TO GO!
…
OOH, WOW!
I'VE GOT A SPECIAL PRIZE FOR SUCH EXCELLENT ARCHERY!


S-SOME KIND OF ATHLETE?
AAAH! OH MY GOD, WHO IS HE!?
THE TARGET IS TOO CLOSE…


IT DOES NOT SPEAK WELL OF THE FLAT-FACES' MILITARY MIGHT.
WHAT A LARGE PRIZE FOR HITTING SUCH AN EASY TARGET
カラ
コロ
KORO (CLICK)
KARA (CLICK)
麻雀
2P
HEE HEE!
KARA
カラ
KORO
コロ
...BUT THEY REFUSED TO TAKE IT.
P-PLEASE, KEEP IT! YOU WON IT!
I TRIED TO GIVE IT TO THOSE WOMEN..
UM!♡ NO THANKS!
SIAN MAHJONG
DON (THUMP)
ド!
OOPS, SORRY!
I WISH THAT I COULD TAKE IT HOME WITH ME TO ROME...
...IS VALUABLE PROOF THAT I HAVE FINALLY SURPASSED THEIR KIND AT SOME-THING.
THIS DOLL OF SOME ODD ANIMAL THAT MUST LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FLAT-FACES...
YOU DROPPED YOUR WALLET.
HEY, FOR-EIGNER-SAN!
BUTE (PLOP)
ボテッ

A PURSE...? BUT THIS DOES NOT BELONG TO ME...
NO, WAIT!
IT FELL OUT OF YOUR SLEEVE!
HERE IT IS!
?
I MUST RETURN IT AT ONCE!!
...IT BELONGS TO THE OWNER OF THIS TOGA!
WHICH MEANS...
I SUPPOSE THAT FELLOW WAS SAYING THAT IT FELL OUT OF THIS BAGGY SLEEVE.
SOME-ONE'S THERE!
DON'T SEE IT
DAMN! PROBABLY GOT STOLEN
OVER THERE!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


...
HUFF
HUFF
WELL, IF WE DON'T FIND IT, AT LEAST I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CASH IN THERE.
<ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS!?>

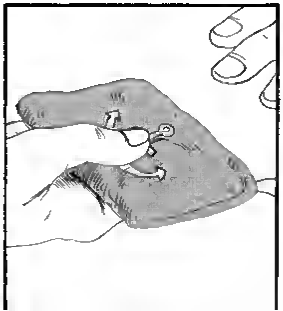
WASN'T IT YOUR IDEA TO BRING REGULAR CLOTHES BECAUSE YOU GET CHILLY IN A YUKATA!?
SEE? I KNEW THINGS WOULD GET ALL MESSED UP WHEN YOU TOOK MY CLOTHES!

I GUESS THIS FELLA MUST HAVE TAKEN YOUR COAT BY ACCIDENT.
AHH.
OH! MY COIN WALLET!

HUFF
HUFF
<ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS PURSE!?>

AH.
<I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THIS >
THANKS FOR RETURNIN' IT.

.....

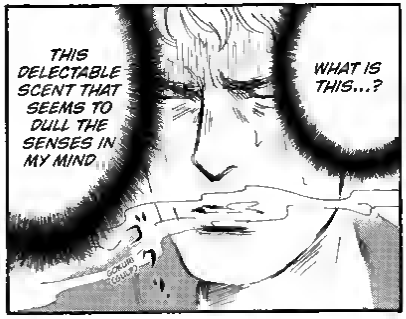


..
NO DOUBT THESE MEN WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE A USE FOR ROMAN COINS...
?
I COULD NEGOTIATE AN EX-CHANGE!!
THAT'S IT!
.....
..WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH? WHAT!?
<I HAVE A PROPOSITION >
WHOA!
WHAT'S THAT!?
じゃら

WHOA!
HUH!? WH-WHAT'S HE SAY-ING?
THEY'RE SILVER!!
THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM, BUT THAT'S REAL SILVER!
...I DUNNO.. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? COULD BE FAKES...
<...YOU MIGHT TRADE YOUR COINS FOR MINE?>
<DO YOU THINK...>
.....
HE WANTS TO TRADE?
WHAT ABOUT 'EM?
EX-CHANGE?
MY FAMILY RUNS A PAWN SHOP, SO I SHOULD KNOW!
EVEN IF THE COINS ARE FAKE, THE SILVER AIN'T.
.....
COME ON, BE REALISTIC, MAN!
IT WOULD SEEM THE NEGOTIA-TION WAS SUCCESS-FUL...
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
UH... SURE! OKAY!!

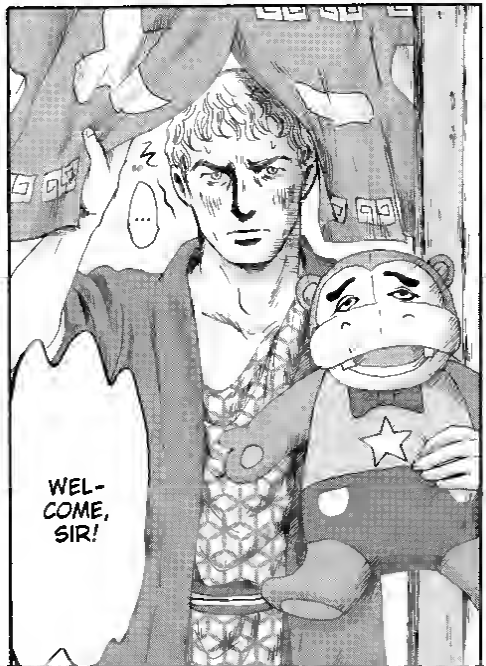
JARA (JINGLE)
じゃら
EXCELLENT! I HAVE GOTTEN SOME OF THE FLAT-FACES' COINS!
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT VALUE THE SUM OF THESE COINS IS IN ROMAN TERMS...
...BUT HOPEFULLY, IT WILL BE ENOUGH TO PROCURE SOME OF THOSE TOOLS AND A MEAL...
WHAT FINE MINTING THIS IS...
SIGN: RESTAURANT
I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK INTO THE TOWN!
仲村
カラ
KARA
コロ
KORO
KARA (CLACK)
KORO (CLOK)
...
...ALONG THE PATH, AS THERE ARE IN ROME?
BUT IS THERE NO OPEN-AIR PLACE TO EAT..
HMM!?
PUFF (WAFT)

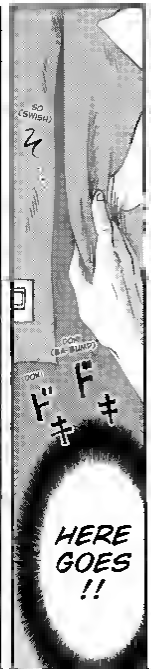
YUMMY!
スッスッ


THIS DELECTABLE SCENT THAT SEEMS TO DULL THE SENSES IN MY MIND
WHAT IS THIS...?

ラーメン
A CAFE-TERIA!?

SIGN: RAMEN


WEL-COME, SIR!


HERE GOES!!

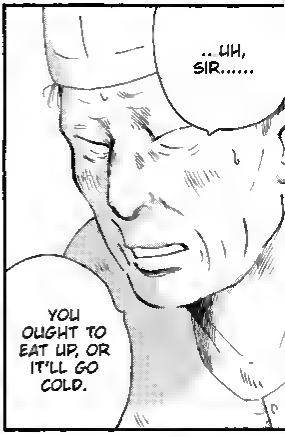
THIS IS IT!!
YES!

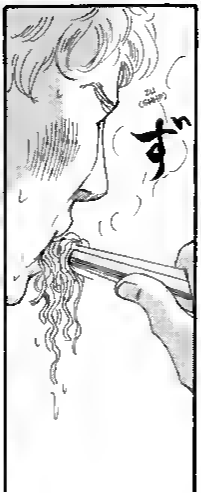
ズズズッ
WELCOME, SIR!
GULP
SO, UH.....
WHAT CAN I GET YA.....?
.....
<GIVE ME THE SAME THING HE'S HAVING.>
Chapter 13

HE'S POINTING THIS WAY...
...YOU THINK HE'S SAYING HE WANTS WHAT I'M HAVING?
<ONE OF THOSE!>
ズル
HUH?
.....
IN THAT CASE, ONE MISO, COMIN' UP!
じゃぁあ
AH, I SEE, I SEE
HA HA
YOU WANT THE SAME THING!
そ...
IT SEEMS HE UNDERSTOOD MY MEANING...

IT TOOK HIM NEARLY NO TIME AT ALL TO PRODUCE THIS...
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS IT MADE OF...?
TOKYO CHIMPO
ONE MISO RAMEN, RIGHT HERE!
...IS SLICED MEAT AND A BOILED EGG...
ALL THAT I CAN IDENTIFY NOW...
ACTUALLY, WHAT HAS ME MOST CURIOUS OF ALL IS...
.....
AND THIS SPIRAL OBJECT IS SO BEAUTIFUL, I ALMOST DO NOT WISH TO EAT IT.
BUT WHAT IS IT MADE OF...?
AND THAT BLACK, PAPYRUS-LIKE MATERIAL?
THIS PLANT LIKE A LENGTHENED ROOT-STALK...?
WHAT ARE THESE LONG, YELLOW STRANDS SOAKING IN THE BROTH?

BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN FOOD LIKE THIS IN ROME...
DOES THAT MEAN THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE GREEKS, AS WE WERE?
...
...
...AND THAT SYMBOL WAS ALSO ON THE SUN-BLOCKING CLOTH OUTSIDE THE DOOR...
ON THE SIDES OF THIS DISH ARE GREEK MEANDROS DESIGNS...





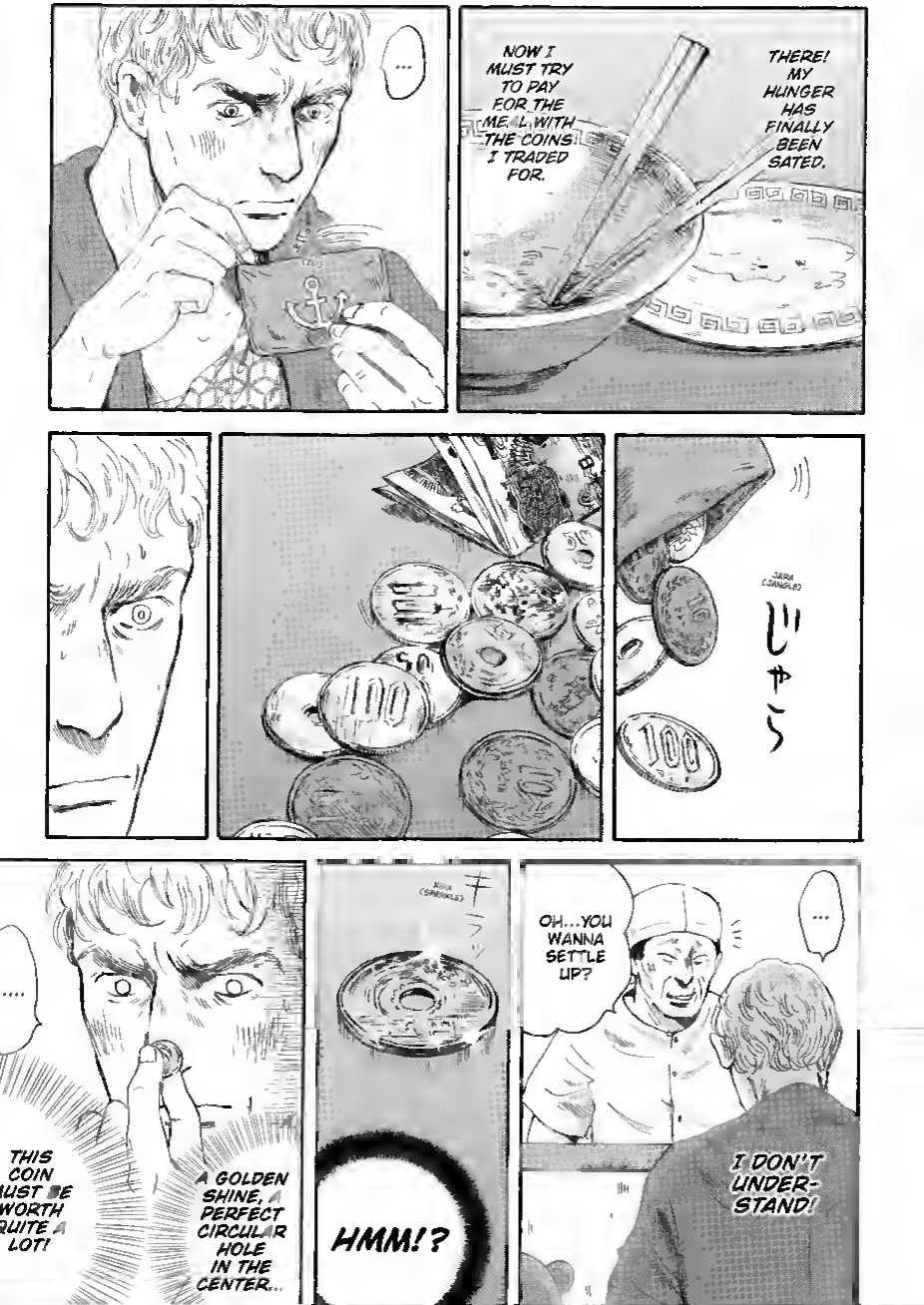
*LIGULA: ROMAN SPOON
RUDICULA: STICKS USED FOR STIRRING SOUP

……
ズズズ

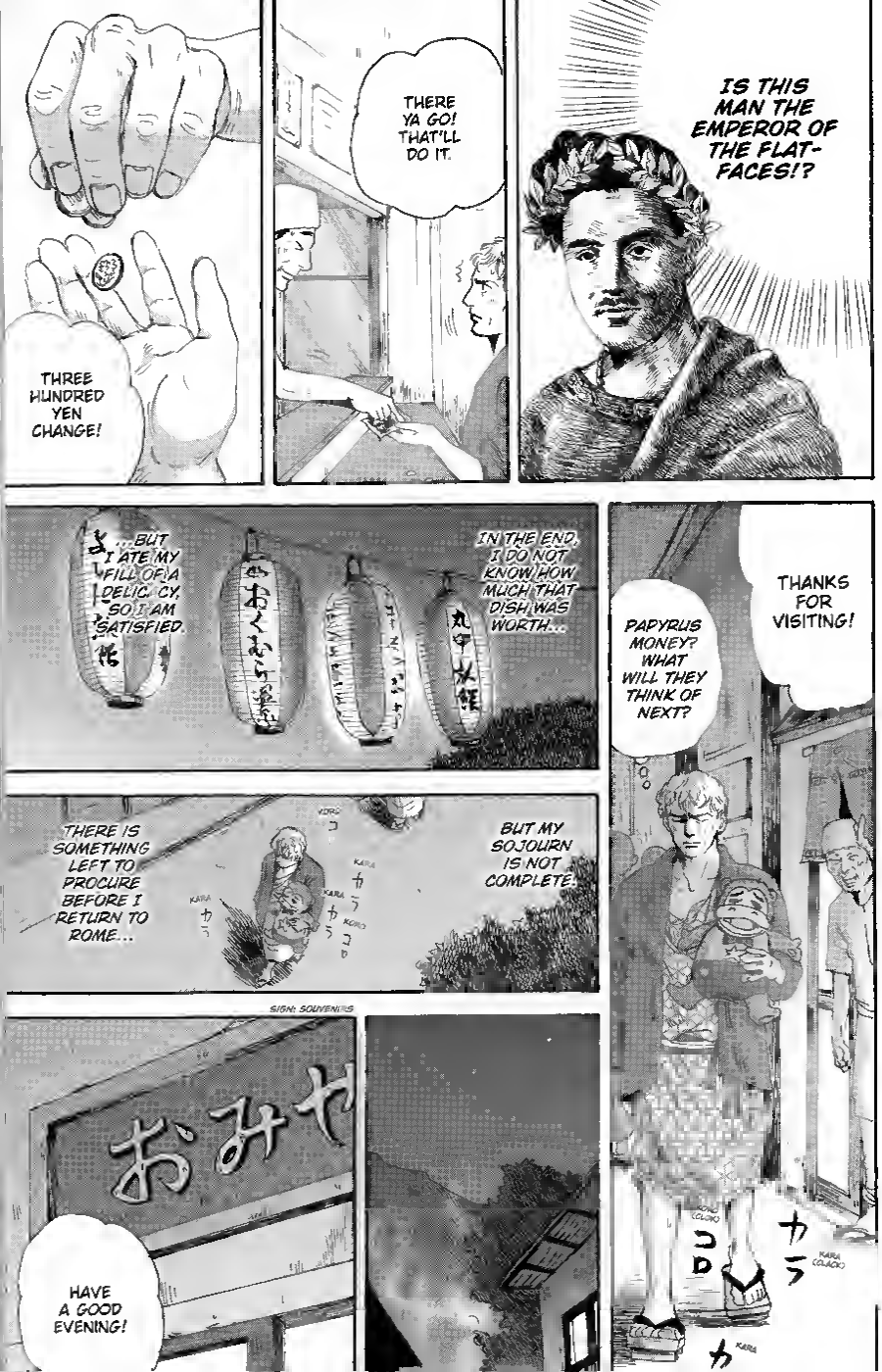
EVEN IN THE FIELD OF CUISINE, WE HAVE TAKEN THE SAME GREEK INFLUENCES THESE PEOPLE HAVE...
...
HOW CAN THIS BE...?
...DEVELOP SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD!?
SO WHY CAN ONLY THE FLAT-FACES...
EH!?
DID YOU BURN THE INSIDE OF YOUR MOUTH, PAL!?
I THINK HE'S SAYING IT WAS GOOD.
HA HA HA HA...
HE LOOKS SO FURIOUS, THOUGH...
... REALLY ...?
R...
OPTIMUM! DELICIOUS!
HUH?
VERITAS! REALLY!
MPH.
...
NO! I MUST NOT LOSE MY COMPOSURE HERE, LEST I BETRAY MY ROMAN PRIDE...

MY HUMBLE RAMEN ...?
GOOD ENOUGH TO BRING TEARS TO HIS EYES?
じいーん
JIIIN (CRIED)
LOOK AT HIM EAT...THIS GUY'S REALLY BLOWN AWAY BY YOUR RAMEN.
ズッ
ズルズル
ズズッ
ズルッ
SHEESH...
トン
TON (TAO)
IT IS BOTH A BLESSING AND A CURSE THAT ROME AND THIS COUNTRY HAVE NEVER KNOWN EACH OTHER...
THESE PEOPLE WOULD TURN UP THEIR NOSES AT THE FINEST, RICHEST DISH OF ROME
I SEE. THESE ARE MEANT TO ACCOM-PANY THAT BROTH...
ATSUI (HOT)
ATSUI
IT'S FOR LOVING MY RAMEN SO MUCH.
ON THE HOUSE! ENJOY.
HEH HEH HEH...
WHAT IS THIS? I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT.
HMM?

MMPH...
THEY'RE QUITE HOT...
JUST GRABBING THEM WITH HIS BARE HANDS! WHAT A STUD...
MY RAMEN'S OFFICIALLY AN INTERNATIONAL HIT! BOY, I'M GLAD I CHOSE THIS LINE O' WORK. .
IT'S... SO... JUICY!!
HOW DID THIS DEVELOP FROM THE GREEK STYLE?
I'LL TAKE THE LAST ONE WITH ME TO ROME. .
DID HE JUST SLIP ONE UP HIS SLEEVE?
WAIT!
PICK (CHEEZE)
EAT-ING!!
CAN'T! STOP!
BAKU (CHOMP)
BAKU
BAKU


...
NOW I MUST TRY TO PAY FOR THE MEAL WITH THE COINS I TRADED FOR.
THERE! MY HUNGER HAS FINALLY BEEN SATED.
JARA (JANGLE)
じゃら
....
THIS COIN MUST BE WORTH QUITE A LOT!
A GOLDEN SHINE, A PERFECT CIRCULAR HOLE IN THE CENTER...
KIRA (SPARKLE)
キラ
HMM!?
OH...YOU WANNA SETTLE UP?
...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

UH... HA-HA... THIS AIN'T GONNA COVER IT...
HA HA HA
<I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE WHOLE THING!?
SURELY THIS IS WORTHY OF THIS COOK'S SERVICES.
<TAKE IT, AND KEEP THE CHANGE!>
THIS BILL WILL COVER THE COST.
!?
HOW MUCH DO I GIVE HIM TO COVER THE PRICE!?
じゃら
じゃら
HMM? HE SEEMS DISSAT-ISFIED!
▸PAPER MONEY DID NOT EXIST IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE
1000
日本銀行
千円
SUCH FINE-NESS...
SUCH TERRIFYING PRECISION!!
IS THIS PART OF THEIR CURREN-CY!?
1000 YEN
WHAT IS THIS!?

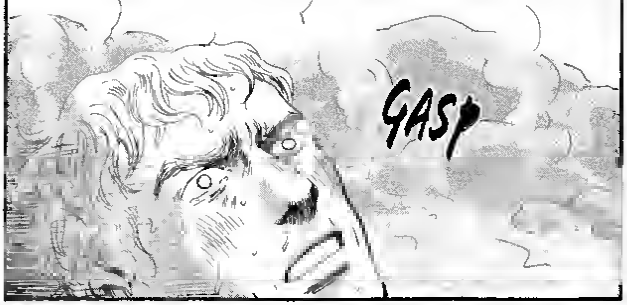

THREE HUNDRED YEN CHANGE!
THERE YA GO! THAT'LL DO IT.
IS THIS MAN THE EMPEROR OF THE FLAT-FACES!?
...BUT I ATE MY FILL OF A DELICACY, SO I AM SATISFIED.
IN THE END, I DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH THAT DISH WAS WORTH...
THERE IS SOMETHING LEFT TO PROCURE BEFORE I RETURN TO ROME...
BUT MY SOJOURN IS NOT COMPLETE.
SIGN: SOUVENIRS
おみや
HAVE A GOOD EVENING!
THANKS FOR VISITING!
PAPYRUS MONEY? WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

...
THE MORE I EXAMINE IT, THE MORE BRILLIANT IT IS...
I MUST CREATE SOMETHING LIKE THIS WHEN I RETURN.
SIGH: NUDE
...
THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER I'LL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE THESE THINGS WITH ME...
ヌード
GASA (RUSTLE)
KARA
KARA (CLACK)
...
WAS THAT...
...A LUPA-NAR!?

NO, HE WOULD NOT BE HERE...
JAPANESE GIRL! NUDE! CHEAP!
THE LEADER OF THE BAN-DITS!?
WE HAVE VERY NICE GIRLS HERE. STOP ON BY!
HUH? WHAT'S THIS, SIR? GOT YOU CURIOUS?
WHO IS THIS...?
HANG ON, PAL!!
YOU'LL LOVE IT, HONEST!
H-HEY...
OPUS NON EST! NO NEED FOR THAT NOW!
!!
OH! SORRY!
CUSTOMER BARKERS ARE A PUSHY LOT.
IT SEEMS THAT IN ANY NATION

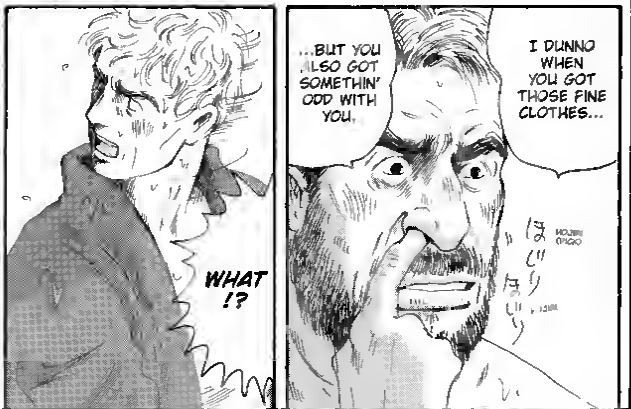
ホチャ
YOSHA CRUSHED
AAAAAH!
I'M SO SORRY...
MY CRUSH
MY BATTLE PRIZE!!

IF THERE IS ONE THING I MUST BRING BACK TO ROME, IT HAS TO BE THAT ONE!!
HUFF
HUFF
KA COLOKO
カッ
KO
ガ
KA
KO COLOKO
コッ
I MUST DO ANY-THING I CAN...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
KO
コッ
KA
カッ
...TO RESCUE IT!!
BASSHAA (SPLASH)
バッシャー
BUZCH (CRUNCH)
ブチッ


GASP

GABA GUARGO
OH? LOOK, HE'S STILL ALIVE.

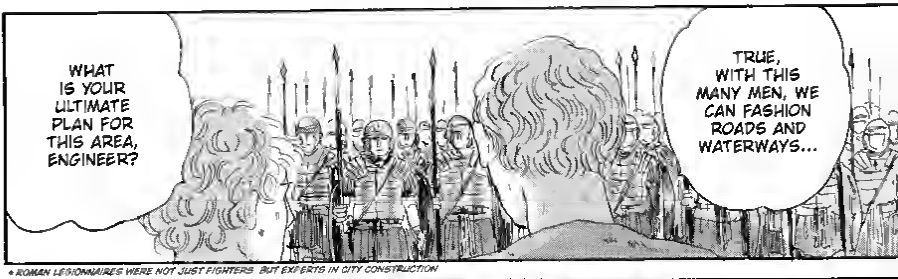
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T DROWN AFTER SO LONG UNDER THERE!
SO HE IS! WA-HA-HA!


I DUNNO WHEN YOU GOT THOSE FINE CLOTHES...
...BUT YOU ALSO GOT SOMETHIN' ODD WITH YOU.
WHAT!?

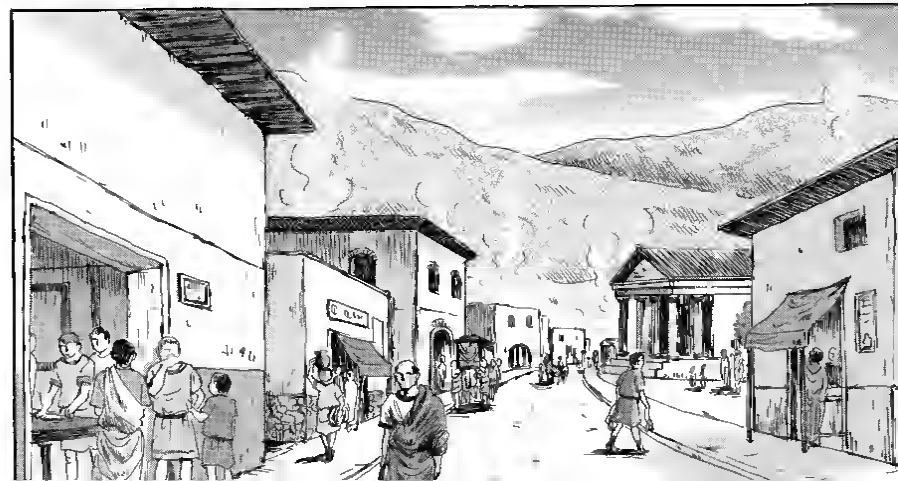
PUKAA (FLOAT)
うかぶ
WHAT IS THAT?
...
YES!
...I HAVE THE MATERIALS
THIS IS NO TIME TO SIT AROUND!!
WE MUST SET TO WORK ON THIS VILLAGE AT ONCE, MEN!!
WHAT VILLAGE?
VIL-LAGE?
.....

SOME TIME LATER...
HOW MANY YEARS WILL THIS TAKE...?
WE HAVE TO MAKE AN ENTIRE VILLAGE, STARTING WITH BAKING THE BRICKS IN THE SUN?
I DON'T KNOW, CURSE IT!
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO KEEP WORKING ON THIS?
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
AHH, I NEED A BREAK.
I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT HIS FACE... GRIPPED WITH MADNESS, I SAY!
AN-OTHER ONE!?
THERE WILL BE A DIFFERENT STORE THERE...
JUST LOOK! EVEN OUR LEADER'S BOWING AND SCRAPING TO HIM!
WE'LL BE ARRESTED AND EXECUTED!!
LET'S RUN FOR IT!
YOU'LL BE FINE! DON'T RUN!
OH, DAMN! AN ARMY!

M-MARCUS VERUS!?
ARE YOU UNHURT!?
ENGINEER LUCIUS!!
パカラッ
パカラッ
THANK THE GODS!
YOU ARE THE SAME AS EVER!
...BUT EVEN WITH ALL THESE BANDITS WORKING, PROGRESS IS SLOW...
I WANTED TO TILL THE LAND A BIT BEFORE WE BUILT THE EMPEROR'S RESORT...
NO NEED TO WORRY!
I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD, IN CASE YOU WERE IN DANGER.
HEH
THERE IS PLENTY OF LABOR HERE FOR YOU TO USE!!
...!!
JUST LOOK!
THAT'S EASILY REMEDIED.
THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS HOW INCONVENIENT THE SOIL IS HERE...
BETTER NOT MENTION THE PLOT



* ROMAN LEGIONNAIRES WERE NOT JUST FIGHTERS BUT EXPERTS IN CITY CONSTRUCTION

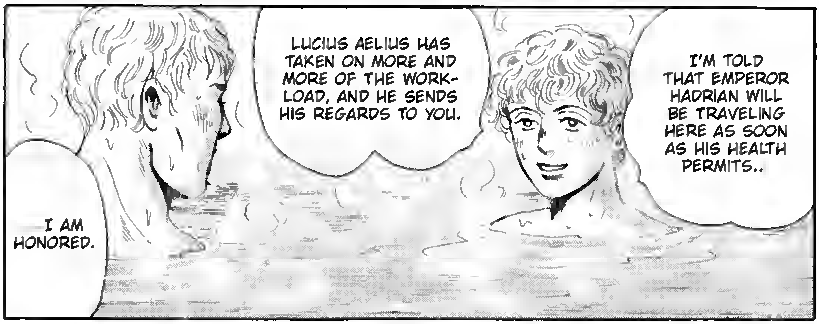


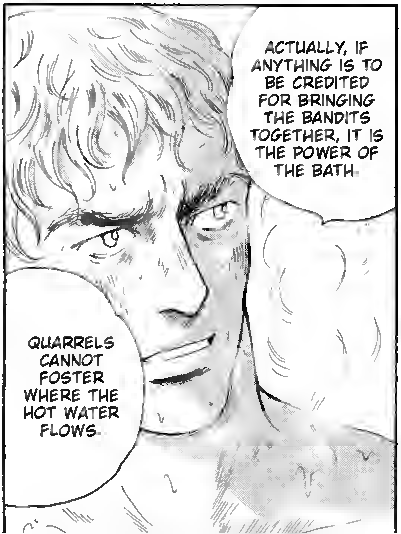
AND THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF STORES, NOT JUST THERMAE...
IT'S THE TALK OF ROME, AS A MATTER OF FACT!
RATHER VIBRANT AROUND HERE!
PARDON ME, HOW MUCH ARE THESE SHELL TOYS?
MAMA, BUY THIS FOR ME! I WANT IT!
OOH!
WHAT'S THAT DELICIOUS SMELL...?
FUAN (WAFT)
OH?
IS THAT THE POPINA ACROSS THE ROAD..?
HOW MUCH WERE WE SELLIN' EM FOR?
AH, UM..
JUST ONE AS!

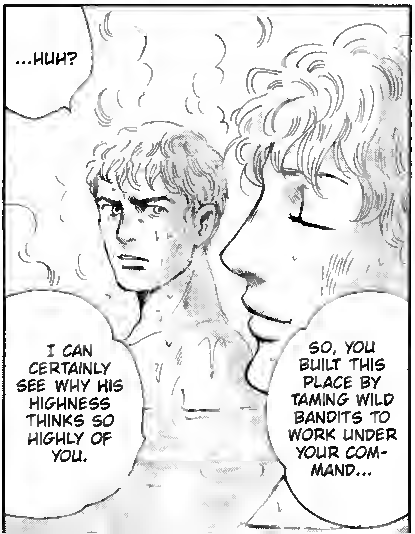
COME RIGHT IN!
THEY'RE STEAMED LAGANUM* DUMPLINGS, STUFFED WITH SLICED PORK!
THERE'S A DISH THAT GOES ALONG WITH THE SOUP..
OOH, THAT SMELLS DELICIOUS!
A FRESH BOWL OF OUR SPECIAL SOUP!
*LAGANUM: KNEADED DOUGH OF FLOUR AND WATER.
WE HAVE WOMEN FROM ALL THE PROVINCES OF ROME!
NOT NOW!
HIC HABITAT
HO THERE, GENTLEMEN! FEEL LIKE A QUICK STOP BEFORE YOU BATHE?
OH, HOW THE MEAT JUICE SQUIRTS OUT! SUCCULENCE!

AH, IT'S YOU! WORKING HARD?
OH! LEADER!
OH WELL. I'VE GRABBED ENOUGH CUSTOMERS FOR ONE DAY TO NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MORE.
CRANKY OLD BASTARDS...
WELL, HE'S NOT HAPPY WITH THE RECIPE YET, BUT THE CUSTOMERS LOVE IT!
REMEMBER THAT BIZARRE SOUP THE MADMAN KEPT TESTING?
IT'S BOOMING!
HOW'S YOUR BUSINESS DOING?
I WAS JUST GOING OUT TO GET MORE SUPPLIES.
IT'S A WONDER YOU'VE CREATED HERE, LUCIUS!
THEY'RE ALL HAPPY TO HAVE HONEST WORK...
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT! YOU ALWAYS DID LIKE COOKING.
I SEE!

I JUST... DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
WHEN WE DECIDED TO SNEAK OUT HERE TO OBSERVE...
.....
...THIS WAS THE LAST THING I EXPECTED...
NOT ONLY DID IT FAIL TO KILL HIM, HE CREATED AN ENTIRE TOWN...
GAH...
IT SEEMS I UNDERESTIMATED THIS MODESTUS...
THE PLAN WAS A FAILURE!!
COME NOW, DON'T DWELL ON IT...
FORGET ABOUT HIM FOR A MOMENT, AND LET'S ENJOY THE BATHS, SERGIANUS!


LUCIUS AELIUS HAS TAKEN ON MORE AND MORE OF THE WORK-LOAD, AND HE SENDS HIS REGARDS TO YOU.
I'M TOLD THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN WILL BE TRAVELING HERE AS SOON AS HIS HEALTH PERMITS..
I AM HONORED.


ACTUALLY, IF ANYTHING IS TO BE CREDITED FOR BRINGING THE BANDITS TOGETHER, IT IS THE POWER OF THE BATH.
QUARRELS CANNOT FOSTER WHERE THE HOT WATER FLOWS.


...HUH?
SO, YOU BUILT THIS PLACE BY TAMING WILD BANDITS TO WORK UNDER YOUR COM-MAND...
I CAN CERTAINLY SEE WHY HIS HIGHNESS THINKS SO HIGHLY OF YOU.

MY THOUGHTS ENTIRELY!
IF THIS IS OUR REWARD FOR PLOTTING CONSPIRACY, IT WAS ALL WORTH IT, HA HA HA-HA
INDEED—
THE FINEST BATH I'VE EVER TAKEN...
AHHH, WHAT PARADISE...
THE POWER OF THE BATH? THEN THE GODS HAVE TRULY BLESSED US...
YES?
THAT THING PLACED IN THE LARARIUM OVER THERE...
BY THE WAY, ENGINEER, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
...
...
A GOD!
WHAT IN THE WORLD... IS IT?

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

This manga originally started as a series of one-shots, and somehow it now spans three whole volumes. This is all thanks to you, readers, for supporting Lucius's bathing adventures. You have my wholehearted thanks.

By the way, the cover of this volume is a parody of Laocoön and His Sons, one of the greatest works of ancient Roman sculpture, enshrined in the Vatican Museums.

This illustration had already graced the cover of *Comic Beam*, the manga magazine in which *Thermae Romae* appears, and no doubt some readers were disappointed that the cover of the volume wasn't something new drawn just for the book. But in fact, that drawing holds a special place in my heart, and reusing it for the cover was a very intentional move on my part.

My version of this sculpture, which captures one of the more gruesome scenes of the tragic tale of Laocoön, has him wearing a shampoo hat to keep the shampoo out of his eyes. When I drew this, my Greco-Roman loving husband was furious. "Why did you have to choose Laocoön, of all people!? There are plenty of silly sculptures you could have used!"

Yes, he's right. He's absolutely right. But I specifically wanted to draw the twisted musculature of the agonized priest, a form that was a huge influence on the great Michelangelo. Besides, I'm sure Laocoön washed his hair from time to time, and if he did massage his scalp, he certainly must have struck poses like the one on the cover. So please, Laocoön fans, forgive me for my frivolous imagining of his private shampoo time.

Solfatara, a volcanic crater in Pozzuoli, Italy

As you've just read, the first story in this volume is set in a Japanese hot spring town, and it just so happens that as I was in the middle of it, I had to move from Portugal to Chicago as a result of my husband's work.

Chicago, town of gangsters, the blues, and Obama. Chicago, bustling and entertaining metropolis. .if it weren't for the fact that the stifling swarm of skyscrapers looming outside my window makes me feel utterly claustrophobic. The same floor on the building across the street is a gym, so from 5:00 A.M. on, I see Americans working out, trying to maintain their balance of body and mind. The sight of such constant activity fills me with an oppressive weight that I cannot remove.

Could there possibly be a greater turnaround, a more polar opposite to busy downtown Chicago than the relaxing nature of a Japanese hot spring town? A total 180-degree span, not just in character but in location.

A hot spring town is possessed of a unique atmosphere, a liberation from the usual human mindset of, "I have to do something to survive, I have to accomplish something," replaced with a loose and lazy feeling of, "I'm going to let it all hang out. Time to take it easy!" It's a sensation that does not exist in this slice of the major American city where I live. Alas, I have to believe that it would be impossible to bring the concept of a Japanese hot spring town to a country where there is no habit of taking baths with strangers and exposing ourselves in our most vulnerable state.

The ruins of Baiae, a hot spring town in the Campania region.

I have a 1976 hot spring-themed magazine called *Taiyo* (meaning "sun") on hand. The magazine is packed with personal stories and anecdotes from various writers about hot springs all over Japan. Among them was a special article about a trip to Shirosaki Hot Springs shared by the writer Komimasa Tanaka, the manga artist Yoshiharu Tsuge, and the photographer Katsumi Watanabe.

Just reading Komimasa Tanaka-san's account, which claims that he was too drunk to remember the events of the previous evening, you can practically smell the alcohol wafting off the sentences. Yoshiharu Tsuge-san's brilliant illustrations bring the rich flavor of the hot spring town to life. The images contained within are varied and colorful: narrow alleyways, shooting range games, packed clusters of small restaurants, rear views of yukata-clad men urinating on the street, women in revealing red shifts attracting customers to nude parlors.

As you flip the pages, drinking in the rich world of Tsuge-san's longing, there is a sudden centerfold spread of Komimasa Tanaka-san, his yukata half-removed, nipples being teased by geisha on either side. It's a stunning bit of editorial work.

It makes me wonder: is there another photograph that better portrays the unique feeling of liberation that exists in a hot spring town? It's a fantastic image that speaks to the power of the town to remove us from our tiresome daily lives, warning us that without experiencing the freedom within, we are doomed to spend our entire lifespans locked in a society of stress and anxiety.

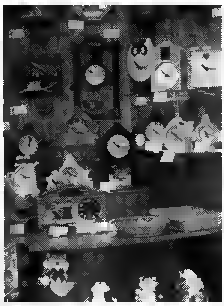
The shore of Izu hot springs.

The shore of Baiae, resort of ancient Rome

Alas, Lucius only has the briefest of periods to experience the glory of the run-down old hot spring town before returning to Rome, but I do believe that as a proud citizen seeking to maintain a healthy mindset and support his empire in all fields, our intrepid Roman friend would be warmly welcomed by Japan's hot spring culture.

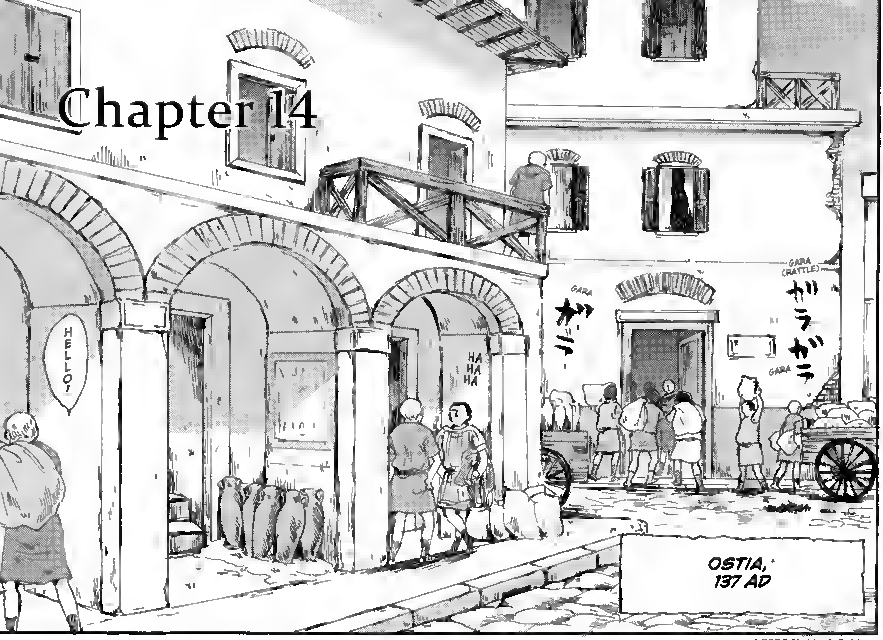
Finally, the shopping escapade in this story. Lucius succeeded in trading his coins and buying a shell charm. Most souvenirs you can buy at hot spring towns make you question your own sense of taste afterward, like, "Why did I buy this thing, anyway...?" But those crappy souvenirs exist to show us that there are things we only want to buy when we reach that state of mind like a worn-out elastic waistband, free from stress or responsibility. I think this lazy desire for trivial objects that no one in their right mind would be happy to receive as a gift, the kind of shopping that only works when one's brain cells have been rendered a soggy mess by steaming hot water, is actually a very important thing. I once gleefully bought a huge signboard-shaped key-holder and pennant at a hot spring, then later wondered what odd impulse drove me to do so. But you mustn't regret that desire. The trinkets you wind up taking home are material proof of the special feeling of liberation that you experienced on vacation.

The hot spring towns of Japan operate on their own special flow of time, healing the souls of their visitors at a leisurely pace. I suspect that the hot spring resorts of ancient Rome, such as Baiae in Campania, operated on a similar basis. But whether they did or not, they certainly are a world far, far removed from the America in which I live now.

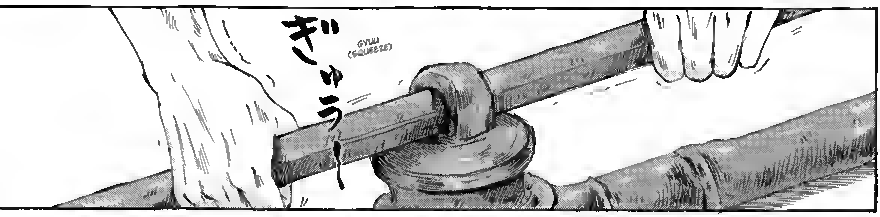


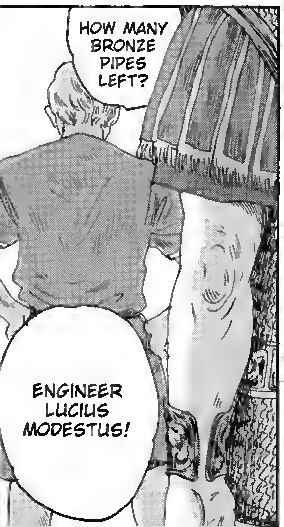
Souvenir shop at a hot spring town in Hokkaido. Which one do I buy?

The town of Izu



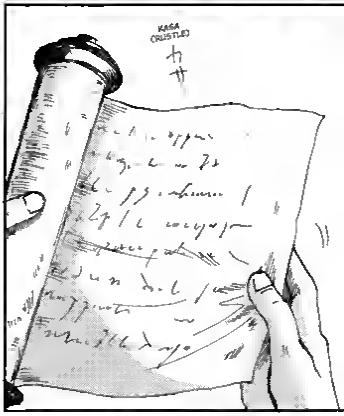
*A PORT TOWN NEAR ROME

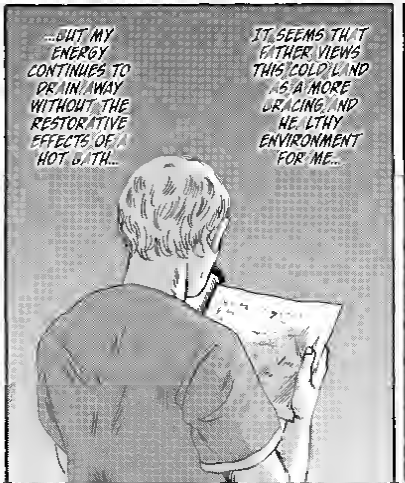


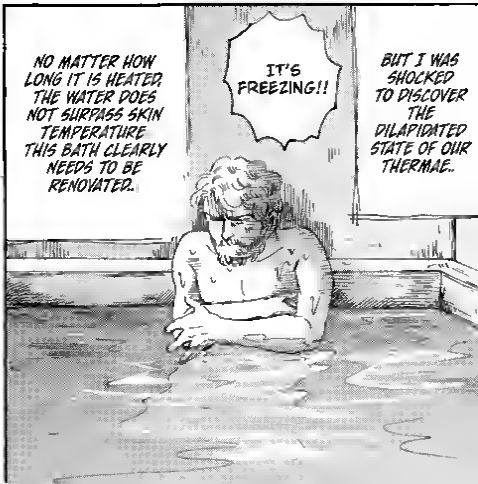


* PANNONIA: AN IMPERIAL PROVINCE OF ROME STRETCHING TO THE DANUBE IN MODERN-DAY EASTERN EUROPE.

AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW, XIV GEMINA IS A VITAL GARRISON LEGION FOR ROME.
MY DEAR LUCIUS, I WRITE THIS MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE FRIGID LAND OF PANNONIA, WHERE NOT A HINT OF SUMMER CAN BE FELT.
...

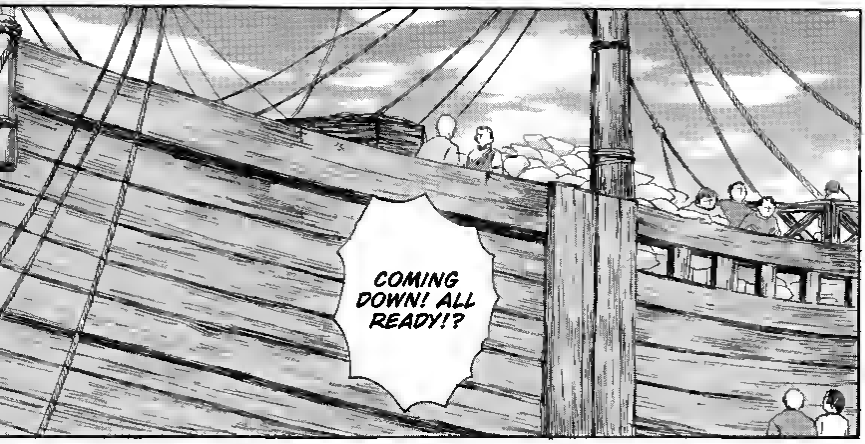



...BUT MY ENERGY CONTINUES TO DRAIN AWAY WITHOUT THE RESTORATIVE EFFECTS OF A HOT BATH...
IT SEEMS THAT FATHER VIEWS THIS COLD LAND AS A MORE GRACING AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ME...


NO MATTER HOW LONG IT IS HEATED, THE WATER DOES NOT SURPASS SKIN TEMPERATURE. THIS BATH CLEARLY NEEDS TO BE RENOVATED.
IT'S FREEZING!!
BUT I WAS SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THE DILAPIDATED STATE OF OUR THERMAE..

AELIUS... HOW WEAK-WILLED CAN ONE MAN BE...?
THOUGH I DO UNDERSTAND THAT THE L. CK OF A B. TH AND ITS REVITALIZING POWER IS A DREADFUL STATE OF AFFAIRS...
...
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE A BUSY MAN, BUT I PRAY THAT YOU TAKE MY TROUBLES INTO ACCOUNT...
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO ASK YOU TO COME TO PANNONIA?
AND AFTER THAT, I AM SLATED TO REPAIR THE THERMAE IN BAIAE...
ENGINEER! THE FRIGI-DARIUM IS READY!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
...AND I CANNOT SIMPLY GET UP AND LEAVE.
I AM ALREADY RENOVATING THIS THERMAE IN OSTIA ON HADRIAN'S ORDERS...
WELL, JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FORGET!
ER, NO, THAT WAS THE NEXT STEP...
BUT KNOWING AELIUS, I'M SURE HE'S HOPING FOR A BATH TO RIVAL THE GREATEST IN ROME...
IS THE LEFT PIPE ALREADY HOOKED TO THE BASIN?
I DOUBT THAT THE POOR STATE OF GEMINA'S BATHS IS ENOUGH OF AN EMERGENCY TO SUPERSEDE MY CURRENT WORK...

...THAT WOULD BE QUITE THE DISASTER...
IF IT TURNS OUT THAT AELIUS FAILS TO PROTECT THE PROVINCE BECAUSE HE COULDN'T TAKE SATISFACTORY BATH...
...
PANNONIA IS CONSTANTLY UNDER THREAT FROM BARBARIANS, LIKE THE QUADI AND THE MARCOMANNI...
...
WHAT IS TO BE DONE...?
WAI
WAI
WAI CALIMALIO
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GARA
IF ONLY I COULD HAVE A SUDDEN BURST OF INSPIRATION...
GYAA (CAW)
GYAA
ザザ...ン



OBELISK: ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MONUMENT. MANY WERE PLUNDERED BY THE ROMANS

SENDING MARBLE TO PANNONIA WOULD BE A MAJOR TASK— IT IS HEAVY AND FRAGILE.

I WONDER IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FASHION A THERMAE AND BOILER THAT COULD BE SHIPPED TO PANNONIA AND ASSEMBLED THERE?
...
I SEE...
IT'S A NEW OBELISK!

HMM!?
!
WOOD...
CHAPU (CLOSED)

AND I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED BUILDING A BATH OUT OF A MATERIAL OTHER THAN MARBLE...
BUT IF IT COULD BE MADE OF A MATERIAL LIGHTER THAN MARBLE, IT WOULD BE EASIER TO TRANSPORT.

SHIPS ARE MADE OF WOOD AND SIT ON THE WATER AT ALL TIMES. SURELY IT MUST BE POSSIBLE TO BUILD A WOODEN BATH...

...AND WOOD WOULD CERTAINLY BE FAR EASIER TO SHIP TO PANNONIA THAN STONE.
I SEEM TO VAGUELY RECALL SEEING A WOODEN BATH IN THE WORLD OF THE FLAT-FACES...

WHAT? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
HEY, THAT LOG GOES OVER HERE!
A WOODEN BATH... I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HOW TO BUILD SUCH A THING!!
COMING!
ぽちゃん
ぽちゃん
ごいん

フコー
FUKO
フコー
FUKO

フ…
FU (PUFF)
フコー
FUKO (PUFF)
フコー
FUKO

EH, TOO DAMP TA IGNITE...
.....
BETTER CHOP SOME FRESH WOOD.
BWAAAH (SPLUSH)
じゃり
GOPO (BLUB)

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
KOFF!
じゃばっ
JABA (SPLASH)
ザー
ザー
HUFF
HUFF
...
WHAT IS THIS!?
WH...
HMM !?
ポタ (DRIP)
ポタ
ポタ

WHAT AM I DOING IN A BARREL...?
?
A BARREL!?
YES, THIS MUST BE THE WORLD OF THE FLAT-FACED MEN.
IT FEELS LIKE...
THIS ISN'T OSTIA!!

.....
AND A BARREL THIS SIZE...
.....
I ZA GOUGOU
A SIMPLISTIC THERMAE BUILT OF WOOD!!
OF COURSE! THIS IS A BATH!!
A BOILER ...?
AND LOOKING CLOSER, THIS WOOD SEEMS RATHER AGED, WHICH WOULD MEAN THIS HAS BEEN USED FOR MANY YEARS...
IT'S EVEN SIMPLER THAN THE ONE I CREATED FOR MARCUS'S SCULPTING MASTER!
A SIMPLE MODEL, FILLING A BARREL WITH WATER AND THEN HEATING IT WITH THE BOILER...

...IS MORE THAN SERVICEABLE AS A BATH MATERIAL!
MEANING THAT WOOD...
IT COULD CERTAINLY BE LOADED ONTO A CARRIAGE AND SENT TO PANNONIA.
PLUS, A BARREL THIS SIZE IS EASILY LARGE ENOUGH TO FIT A GROWN MAN.
...CUT DOWWWN THE TREEEE...
YOOO-SAKUUU...
I MUST EXAMINE ITS MAKE WHILE I CAN, SO THAT I MIGHT RECREATE ONE WHEN I RETURN TO ROME!
HEY-HEY-HO...
HEY-HEY-HO...
IS IT SEALED WITH SAP?

AAH!
GARA (CLUNK)
GARA
GARA
GARA

<FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU...>
<MY NAME IS LUCIUS MODESTUS...>
.....
S...STAY BACK!!
WH-WHAT'RE YA DOIN'!?
WHA—!?
<I MEAN YOU NO HARM. I AM SIMPLY INVESTIGATING OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR BATHING CULTURE.>
Y...
HUH!?
MWAH?
JUST LOOK!
YA TORE IT TO PIECES!
?
WH-WHAT'S TH' BIG IDEA!?
...YOU SHOULDN'A DONE THAT TO MY BATH!

.....
<BUT HAVE NO FEAR! I WILL RETURN IT TO ITS PROPER STATE!>
<...FORGIVE ME...>
<I COULD NOT SUPPRESS MY CURIOSITY...>
SAWA
SAWA
SAWA CONMIGO
THIS SEEMS...
...
IT'S THE JAPANESE STYLE!
NO NAILS, NO GLUE...
NO, NO, NO! YA GOTTA MATCH THE CORNERS!
IF THEY AIN'T FLUSH, IT'S GONNA FALL APART AGAIN!
THEIR BRILLIANCE NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE...
LOOK, I MAKE CHARCOAL, NOT BARRELS. I AIN'T NO EXPERT...
I SEE...
...LIKE THE SAME PROPERTY THAT HOLDS OUR STONE ARCHES TOGETHER.

ボリ ボリ
AHH, THREE DAYS WITHOUT A BATH'S GOT ME ALL ITCHY!
HEY, YOU!
...
BACK'N ONE PIECE, FOR NOW!
THERE WE GO!
TAKE THIS!
...?
I'M GONNA GIT READY!
YA GOTTA STOKE THE FIRE! GOT THAT?
THAT'S THE PRICE FOR BUSTIN' MY BATH!

ハァ
ハァ
FUKO (PUFF)
フコー
FU
フゥ
フコ
FUKO
HEY-HEY-HO!
HEY-HEY-HO!
YOOOSAKUUU CUT DOWWWN THE TREEEE...

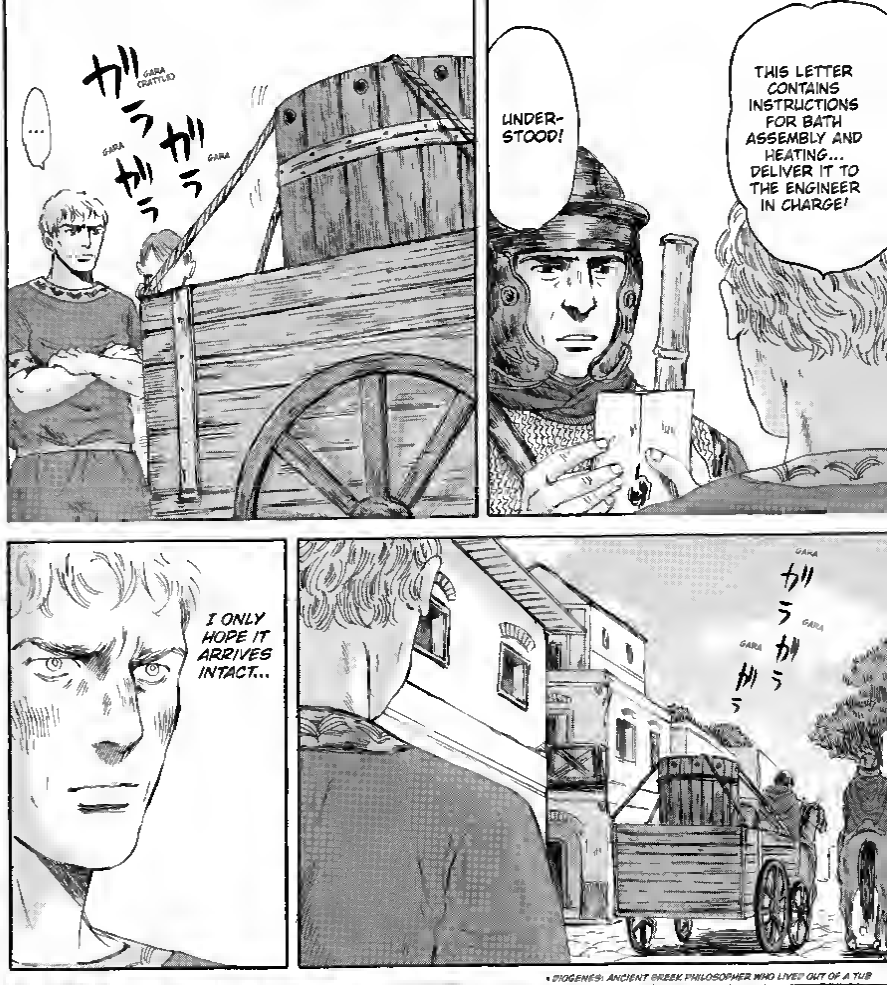
A GOOD HARD WORRRK-ERRR...
フコー
フコー!
WHAT SONG IS THAT? SUCH A RICH, STRANGE MELODY..
IT SEEMS TO SUIT THIS LANDSCAPE PERFECTLY..
HEY-HEY-HO!
SUCH GREAT TRANQUILITY..
SEE HOW THE LEAVES OF THIS COUNTRY'S TREES TURN TO BRILLIANT YELLOW AND RED..
IT IS A BEAU-TIFUL SIGHT..
GASP
<.....>
<HEY-HEY ...HO... .....>
I CAN FEEL THIS OLD M N'S SONG SEEPING SLOWLY INTO MY HEART..
HEY-HEY-HO!

HEY-HEY...
HEH...
SHOOTIIING STARS FAAALL...
HEY-HEY-HO...
<HEY, HEY ...HO... .....>

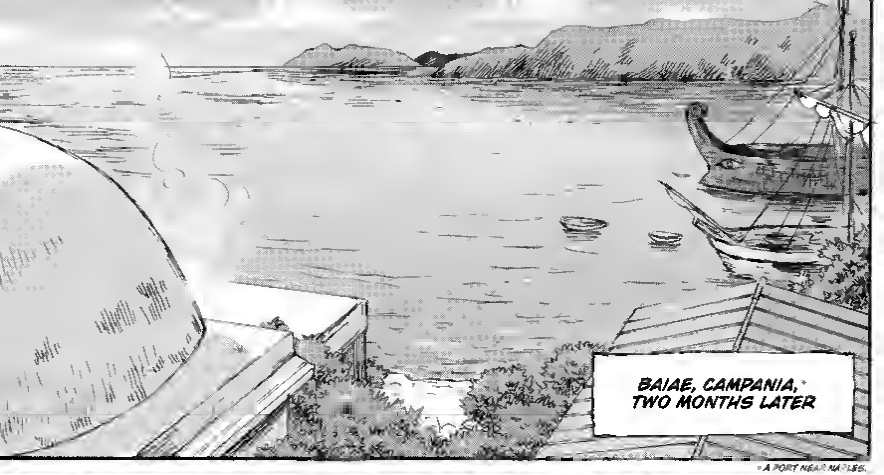
HEY-HEY-HO!
じゃ
JYA GIRUTO
フコー
FUKO GYUPPO
...ON TOP OF THE STRAWWW ROOF...
JA-JA...
JA-JA...
ATTA-BOY!
<HEY-HEY-HO...>
じゃっ
JA GIMMAU
YOOO-SAAA-KUUU...
JAAA!!
...
バチッ
BACHI GIMMAU
しわ
SHIWA GYUPPO
JA-JA-JA-JA...
JA-JA-JA-JA...

HEY!
FOREIGNER-SAN?
DURN IT, I KNEW IT WOULDN'T HOLD!
.....

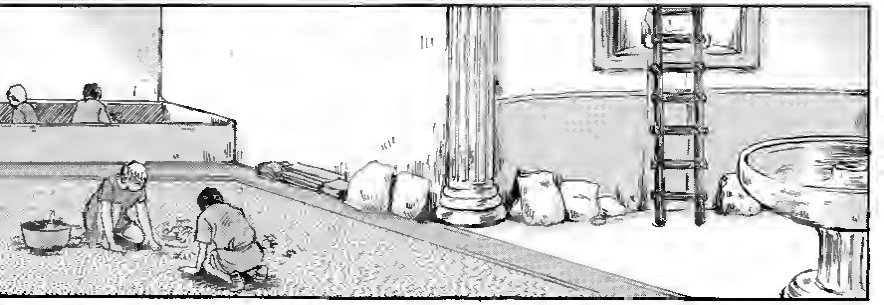
IT'S THE SAME WOOD USED IN SHIPS AND TEMPLE ROOFS, SO IT SHOULD RESIST THE EFFECTS OF WATER!
I USED CEDAR OF LEBANON AND BUILT IT IN THE SHAPE YOU PROVIDED.
I USED THE SAME METHODS WE USE TO MAKE BARRELS BACK HOME IN GALLIA.
IF HE FINDS OUT I USED THEM TO BUILD A BATH...
HADRIAN ISSUED A DECREE PROTECTING THOSE TREES.
YES, IT'S ALREADY BATTLE-TESTED! WE'RE GOOD TO GO.
DID YOU TEST THIS BOILER TO SEE IF IT WILL CONNECT?
I AM CERTAIN HIS HIGHNESS WOULD FORGIVE ME IF HE KNEW I WAS USING IT FOR AELIUS CAESAR'S SAKE...
THEN PREP IT FOR SHIPPING!
VERY GOOD!

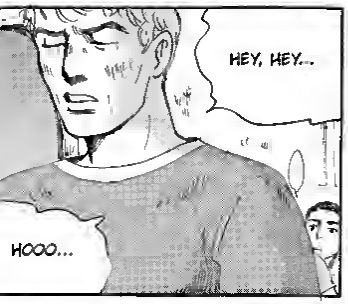

GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA
RATTLED
...
THIS LETTER CONTAINS INSTRUCTIONS FOR BATH ASSEMBLY AND HEATING... DELIVER IT TO THE ENGINEER IN CHARGE!
UNDER-STOOD!
I ONLY HOPE IT ARRIVES INTACT...
...AND BRING PEACE AND SAFETY TO PANNONIA, AELIUS CAESAR!!
YES, LUCIUS!
LET'S RETURN TO WORK..
MAY YOU BATHE IN THAT BARREL, LEARN ABSTINENCE AND SELF-CONTROL LIKE DIOGENES*...

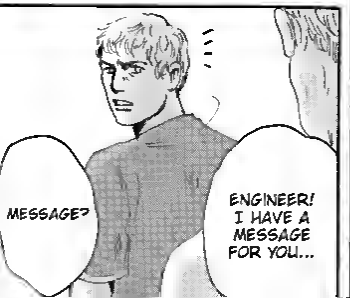
*DIOGENES: ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER WHO LIVED OUT OF A TUB

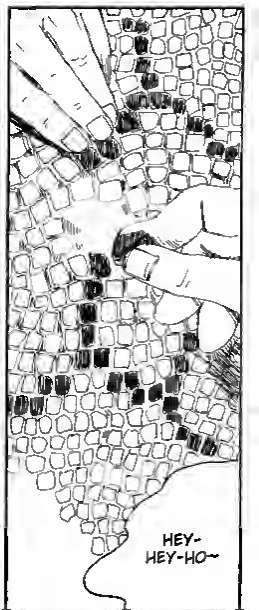


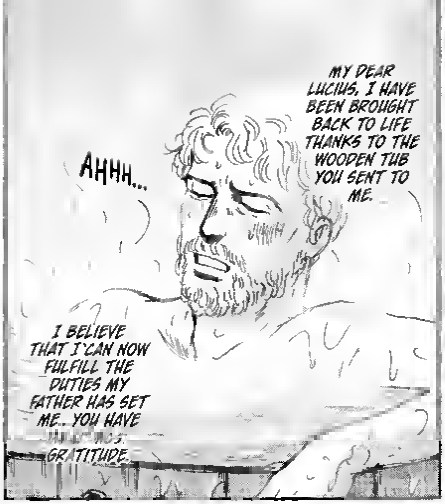
*A PORT NEAR NAPLES.



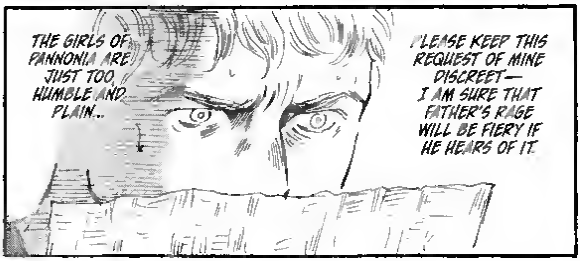


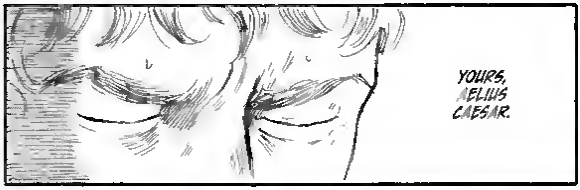





AHHH...
MY DEAR LUCIUS, I HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE THANKS TO THE WOODEN TUB YOU SENT TO ME.
I BELIEVE THAT I CAN NOW FULFILL THE DUTIES MY FATHER HAS SET ME.. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.

IT'S FROM AELIUS CAESAR...
...


THE GIRLS OF PANNONIA ARE JUST TOO, HUMBLE AND PLAIN..
PLEASE KEEP THIS REQUEST OF MINE DISCREET— I AM SURE THAT FATHER'S RAGE WILL BE FIERY IF HE HEARS OF IT


YOURS, AELIUS CAESAR.

GO TO HADES, DUNCE!!

I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN CAPABLE OF HELPING ME, LUCIUS
IF ONLY THERE WERE TWO OR THREE BEAUTIFUL ROMAN WOMEN HERE, MY RESURRECTION WOULD BE COMPLETE.

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

The reason Romans went to the thermae nearly every day wasn't because they were particularly cleanly or because they wanted a place to relax, but because when the workday was over, there wasn't really anywhere else to go.

In this episode, Lucius was visiting the town of Ostia to perform bath maintenance. For many years, including during Hadrian's reign, Ostia was a bustling port suburb of Rome, and of the many ruins of the empire, it is Ostia's that contain the best-preserved examples of the unique Roman dwelling known as the *insula*.

Walking through the stone ruins of Ostia and examining the insulae provides a very concrete image of urban life in ancient Rome. At their highest, the insulae reached sixty feet, and with forty to fifty thousand of them built, you can easily imagine the mind-boggling sight this metropolis must have been to first-time visitors.

With nearly two million people living in Rome at its peak, it seems to make sense that the population surplus would have to grow upward rather than outward.

The one major difference from apartment buildings today is that the prices went down the higher up you lived, so the top floors were the cheapest.

A photo distributed abroad of Japanese women bathing, taken 130 years ago.

Most of the bottom-floor spaces along the street were used for shops, but the second floor was like a modern penthouse: a luxurious entire-floor home for the rich. They could not only build indoor toilets, but even their own indoor baths. But the higher you went, the simpler and cheaper the construction, with no water access or toilets. The top floor would be not much more than a sleeping space, exposed to the breeze and leaking rainwater. To the people of Rome, particularly those who were not rich enough to live in luxury, spending all day around the house was a concept that simply did not exist.

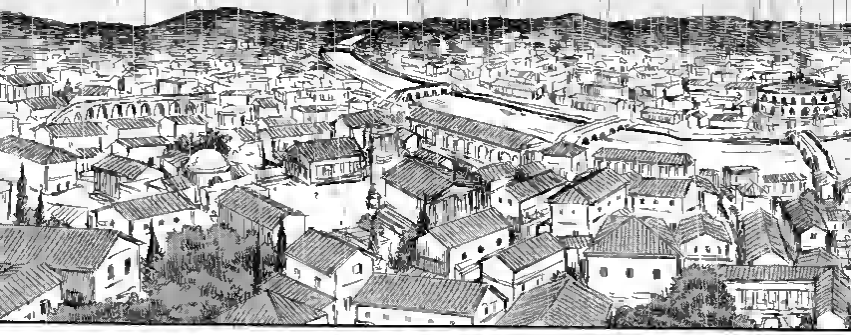
As a result, many people chose to spend their time in spacious, relaxing baths rather than in their cramped homes. The sheer number of thermae found in the Ostian ruins speaks to the high demand for such facilities.

Of course, not more than a few decades ago, Japanese apartments without their own baths were very common (they still exist now), and it was a necessity to visit public baths, not just a matter of choice. The sight of wooden barrels used for baths in the countryside seems like a quaint artifact of the distant past, but it's actually a much more recent thing than you'd think. The progress of modern Japanese culture is startling.

On a sudden whim, I browsed some American bathroom websites, where I found barrel-shaped baths in space-age styles like silver and brass. They were all listed as "Japan-style," but I wonder why they felt it necessary that they had to be barrel-shaped. What was the basis for their interpretation that "wooden barrel equals Japanese"? Personally, no matter how much money I have, I don't think I'd ever want a barrel-shaped bath, but I'm curious to hear the opinion of people who do.

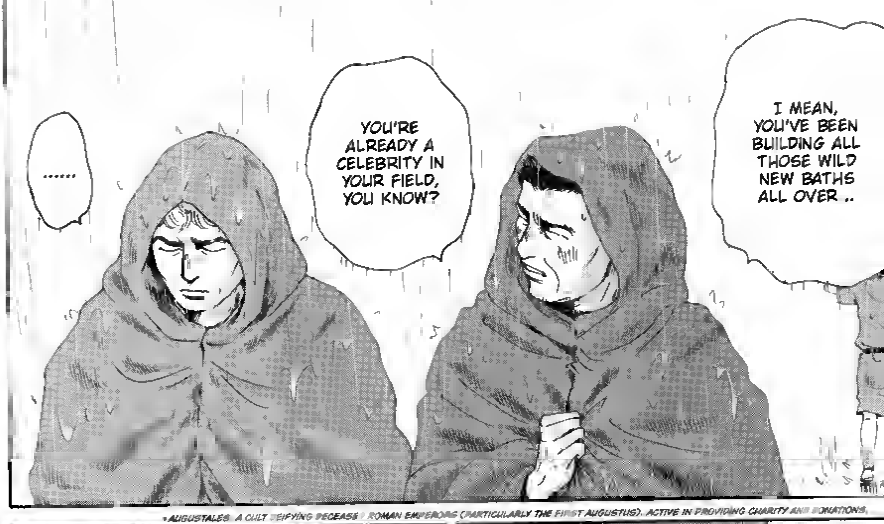
Lower levels of luxury apartments in Ostia. It almost seems like a building that could exist in modern Italy.

Chapter 15



じょぼぼぼぼ
(MORE GLOOSH)
バシャ
BASHA
バシャ
BASHA
...BUT THIS CLIENT JUST WON'T LET IT REST...
LOOK, I HATE TO ASK THIS OF YOU WHEN I KNOW YOU'RE SO BUSY..

BASHA
バシャ
BASHA (SPLASH)
バシャ



*AUGUSTALES: A CULT DEIFYING DECEASED ROMAN EMPERORS (PARTICULARLY THE FIRST AUGUSTUS), ACTIVE IN PROVIDING CHARITY AND DONATIONS.

*FREEDMEN: AT THE TIME, SLAVES COULD BE FREED WITH THEIR OWNER'S PERMISSION OR BY BUYING THEIR OWN FREEDOM.

I DON'T LIKE THE NEW RICH.
I'VE NOT MADE UP MY MIND WHETHER TO TAKE THIS JOB OR NOT, MARCUS.
...
LISTEN, LUCIUS...
THIS IS A TRULY LUCRATIVE OFFER ON THE TABLE...
I KNOW YOU'RE THE EMPEROR'S MAN NOW, AND YOU CAN AFFORD TO CHOOSE YOUR WORK...
...BUT OUR WORKSHOP HAS AN OLD MAN TO SUPPORT AND SUBCONTRACTORS TO PAY. IT'S HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET...
AND YOUR PARTICIPATION WAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR THIS CONTRACT...
I'M SORRY, MARCUS. I TRULY AM..
YOU'D BE SAVING YOUR BEST FRIEND FROM DISASTER!
COME ON! PLEASE?
.....

THAT'S THE PLACE...
.....
AUGUSTO
IS YOUR MASTER...?
WE WERE HIRED BY YOUR MASTER I AM A STONE-MASON, AND HE IS A BATH ARCHITECT.
...
S— SALVE...
...

WAIT HERE.
...YES..
YOU WANT MAS-TER?
...
PROCVLVS·IVLIANVS
DEDICAVIT·DECVRIONIBVS·ET·
AVGVSTALIBVS·CENAM·DEDERVNT
THE AUGUSTALES FED THE POOR HERE
バターン
THERE, THERE! JUST TRY NOT TO LET EVERY LITTLE THING BOTHER YOU, LUCIUS!
...THE OWNER OF THIS HOME IS GUILTY OF POOR TASTE.
BETWEEN THAT SLAVE AND THIS GAUDY SIGN...

SAM OFFRO
NEXT!
THANK YE!
THA... THANK YE!
MMM.
THANK YOU! ANOTHER DAY WITHOUT STARVING!
PROVIDING FOOD TO THE POOR IMPROVES THE IMAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION
THE AUGUSTALES ARE ACTIVE IN CHARITY WORK..
IS HE HANDING OUT BREAD?
UNLIKE US, THEY UNDERSTAND THE MISERY OF BEING DESTITUTE...
...

ギィ…
SFX: CREAK
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
YOU MUST BE THE EMPEROR'S STONEMASON AND BATH ENGINEER!
YES .. THAT'S RIGHT
WELL, COME ALONG, THEN.
COME INSIDE.
THANK YOU!
....

キラキラ〜
ゴテゴテ〜
ハデハデ〜
ハバハバ〜
...
MASTER, THIS IS QUITE A HOME YOU HAVE HERE! HA-HA-HA...

A FISH TANK?
.....
THAT'S A POOL FULL OF MULLETS!
I'M BREEDING THEM, HA-HA!
WHEN I WAS A SLAVE, I WAS TASKED WITH RAISING MULLETS FOR MY MASTER...
AT THE TIME, I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR TASTE.
I WAS DESPERATE NOT TO LET A SINGLE FISH PERISH...

KEE HEE HEE HEE!
...IT'S MY TURN TO DINE UPON THIS DELICACY!!
BUT THIS TIME...
ちゃぷ
GUARU (SPLASH)
RED MULLETS ARE THE FINEST OF MEDITERRANEAN DELICACIES.
WHOA! DO THEY REALLY FETCH SUCH A PRICE!?
I SELL THESE OFF FOR SEVENTEEN SESTERTII A FISH.
...IS NOTHING BUT HYPOCRISY...
SO YOUR BREAD FOR THE NEEDY...
...
AND DOUBLY SO WHEN IT COMES TO MY WALLET!
YOU'RE SPEAKING OUT LOUD, LUCIUS! SHHH!!
SHH! SHH!

FOLLOW ME.....
WILL YOU COME AND SEE THE PLOT FOR THE THERMAE?
...
I PLAN TO OPEN UP THE ENTIRE PLOT FROM HERE TO THE FAR WALL...
...FOR THE GLORY OF THE AUGUSTALES AND THE PEOPLE OF ROME.
.....
THIS SHOULD BE ADEQUATE SPACE, I PRESUME?
WHOA...

I HAVE A PLAN ALREADY DRAWN UP.
WE COULD BUILD THE MOTHER OF ALL BATHS HERE!!
I HAD A SLAVE WITH HIS LETTERS MAKE THE PLAN FOR ME, AS I CANNOT READ OR WRITE.
DOMUS AUREA...
KASA CRUSTLED
IT'S BASED ON THE DOMUS AUREA, THE GOLDEN HOME.
A BATH THAT MAKES ITS GUESTS EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS OF THE GODS THROUGH THEIR ENTIRE BEINGS!!
A PLACE NOT OF THIS WORLD, SO BRILLIANT IT OVERWHELMS THOSE WHO ENTER...
SOME-THING FAR GRANDER THAN NERO'S GOLDEN PALACE...
I WANT THOSE WHO STEP INSIDE TO FEEL AS THOUGH THEY MIGHT BE BLINDED.

GOLDEN PILLARS, GOLDEN POOLS...
SENSUAL STATUES..
GOLDEN FOUNTAINS..
A PEACOCK TO ROAM THE GARDEN, AND BEAUTIES FROM ALL PROVINCES OF THE EMPIRE TO GREET AND ENTERTAIN..
...
I WOULD LIKE THE WOMEN TO HAVE BREASTS AND BUTTOCKS LIKE NONE SEEN BEFORE!
NOW, ABOUT THE SCULPTURES...
I PREFER THINGS THAT FULFILL HUMAN DESIRES IN A MORE DIRECT AND BASIC MANNER!
I AM NOT A FOLLOWER OF HADRIAN AND HIS REFINED TASTES!
AMPLE AND FLOWING!? HA-HA-HA-HA!
WELL-ENDOWED, MASTER!?

RIGHT!? LUCIUS!?
WE CAN DO THIS, RIGHT, LUCIUS!?
RIGHT !!?
...TO BUILD THIS SHAMEFUL EXCUSE FOR A BATH!?
AND HE WANTS ME...
TELL ME YOU'LL DO IT...
COME ON, LUCIUS!!
...YOU WILL BE AMPLY REWARDED!
IF YOU BUILD IT TO FULFILL THE IMAGE IN MY HEAD...
ARE THERE ANY OBJEC-TIONS?
I COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED HOW LOW THIS MAN'S TASTES WOULD SINK...
SUGU COLINGO
.....

WA HA HA!
HA HA HA
...
WINE FOR TWO?
HERE WE GO!

IT'S WEIGHING HEAVILY ON ME, AS WELL...
...I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS, LUCIUS...
.....
...
...AND A SHINY GOLD THERMAE FROM YOU...
TWENTY WELL-ENDOWED STATUES FROM ME...
BUT I'VE COME THIS FAR, AND I INTEND TO HELP YOUR WORKSHOP IN WHATEVER WAY I CAN...
.....
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT I CAN CREATE THE BATH THAT MASTER WANTS...

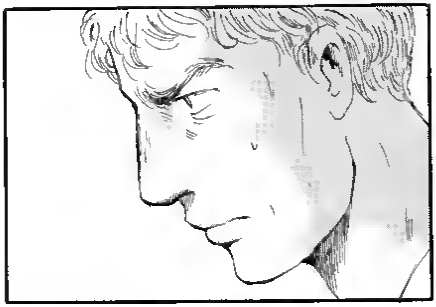
I APPRECIATE YOUR SAYING THAT, LUCIUS...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.
AND YET...
AVGVSTOSAC
THIS UPSTART'S TASTES WILL BE EVEN HARDER TO SATISFY THAN I THOUGHT.
MUST I REALLY FILL THIS GREEN SPACE WITH OSTENTATIOUS GOLD ...?
CAW (CAWING)
CAW
CAW

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ENGINEER LUCIUS?
I AM VERY PLEASED...
...THAT YOU'VE AGREED TO TAKE ON THE JOB!
IT WILL SPEAK WELL OF THE AUGUSTALES!
...
IT'S SAID THAT EVERY BATH YOU BUILD IS A SMASHING SUCCESS!
HEE HEE HEE HEE...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY GOLDEN BATH, SHINING LIKE THE DOMUS AUREA! WA-HA-HA-HA!

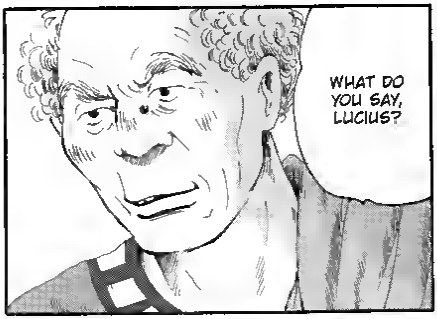
WILL BUILDING A THERMAE OF GOLD TRULY DELIGHT THE COMMON PEOPLE...?
WHAT?
I WOULD NOT WISH TO BATHE IN A HAUGHTY GOLDEN BATH WITH NO SENTIMENT IN IT.
...
...YOUR TASTES HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY INFORMED BY THE EMPEROR.
HOW MANY OF ROME'S CITIZENS DO YOU THINK...
...UNDER-STAND HADRIAN'S REFINED TASTES?
ENGINEER...
YOU CANNOT UNDER-STAND THE HEART OF THE COMMON MAN.

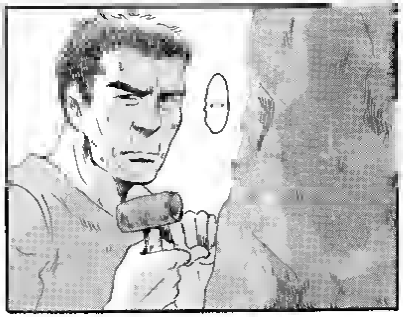
...
...WISH FOR THE SIMPLE, OBVIOUS PLEASURES OF LIFE.
THOSE LIKE US WHO HAVE BEEN SLAVES, AMONG THE LOWER CLASSES.
...
IT IS MEN LIKE US!
IT IS NOT THE EMPEROR WHO CAN FULFILL SUCH BASE DESIRES.
...

.....
BY THE WAY, I HEAR THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN IS IN POOR HEALTH OF LATE...
IS IT TRUE?
SURELY HE MUST SENSE THAT THE END IS AT HAND.
BUT HE HAS CHOSEN A SUCCES-SOR.
I RECENTLY MET HIM IN TIBUR!
HADRIAN IS IN EXCELLENT SPIRITS!
.....
WHEN HADRIAN'S REIGN HAS COME TO AN END, WILL YOU COME AND WORK FOR THE AUGUSTALES?
...ENGI-NEER?
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ....

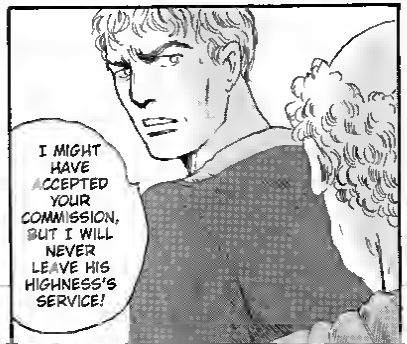


I WOULD PAY YOU TWICE WHAT YOU RECEIVE FROM THE EMPEROR!


WHAT DO YOU SAY, LUCIUS?



I PERFORM MY WORK WITH THE UTMOST OF RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND HIS HIGHNESS THE EMPEROR ..

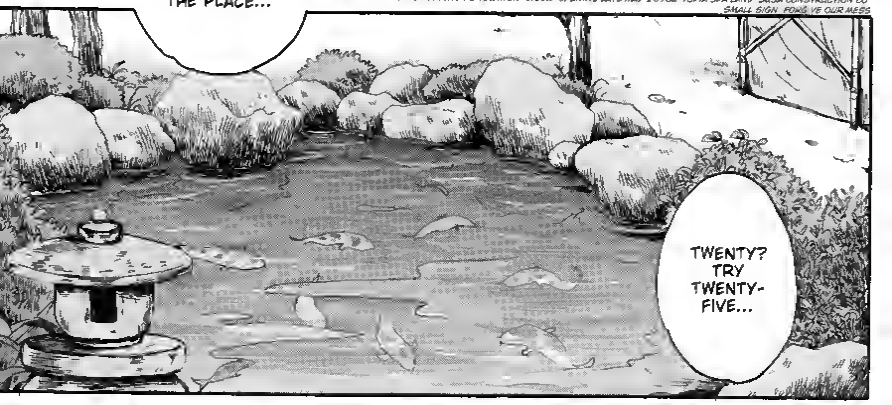

I MIGHT HAVE ACCEPTED YOUR COMMISSION, BUT I WILL NEVER LEAVE HIS HIGHNESS'S SERVICE!

…
GOOD DAY!
H…HEY, WATCH OUT FOR THE—
ガ…
!?
…RED MULLET TANK!!
ドボー

ボコ
ボコ
ボコ
ゴボ
DID MULLETS ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS!?
...WHA...?
ボコ
...

Chapter 16

LARGE SIGN: TSUKIMI HOT SPRING RENOVATION. GRAND OPENING LATE MAY. I♥YOU TOPIA SPA LAND. SUSA CONSTRUCTION CO.
SMALL SIGN: FOR(G)IVE OUR MESS



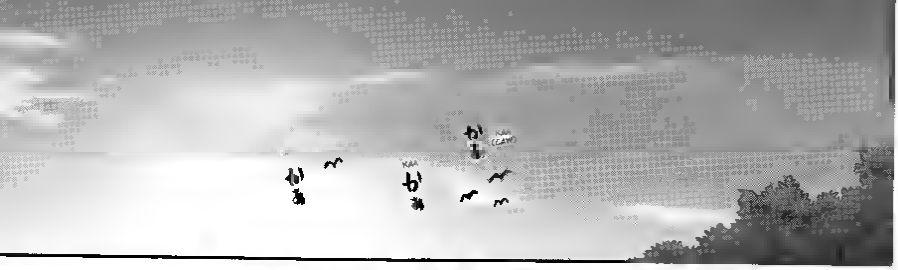
HEY, YOU LISTENIN' BACK THERE?
HUH? OH, YES!
VALENTI
ITALY
THE RICKETY OLD TSUKIMI HOT SPRING INN'S GONNA HAVE A FRESH NEW MODERN LOOK!
AND I'LL MAKE ME A BUCKET FULLA MONEY!
THERE WE GO!
.....
I LOVE YOU
KOI, KOI, KOI, KOI!

HO-HO-HO, THEY'RE SO CUTE!
PAKU (CHOMP)
NAOMI THE KUMONRYUU IS WORTH 800 THOUSAND
MARILYN THE KAWARIGOI IS 2.8 MILLION...
THERE'S NO GETTING TIRED OF WATCHING THE KOI.
AND THE ONLY THING THAT CAN MAKE 'EM SEEM CUTER IS KNOWIN' HOW MUCH THEY'RE WORTH! HEH-HEH-HEH...
UMM, ABOUT THIS POND...
ACCORDING TO THE PLANS, THIS ENTIRE AREA IS GOING TO BE A ROMAN-STYLE BATH PLOT...
DOES THAT MEAN YOU WANT THE POND FILLED IN?
.....
OF COURSE NOT!
ARE YOU CRAZY?
UH... BUT...

.....
DID THE ANCIENT ROMANS HAVE KOI FISH? OR FISH PONDS LIKE THIS...?
..THE CONCEPT FOR YOUR RENOVATION IS A ROMAN-STYLE BATH, RIGHT?
BUT...
IT DON'T MATTER WHETHER ANCIENT ROME HAD KOI OR NOT! THAT POND IS MY LIFE SAVINGS!
JUST SHUT UP ABOUT IT, YOSHIDA!
WHY ARE YOU SETTING HIM OFF?
...
WHAT ARE THE YOUNG FOLKS THINKIN' ANY-MORE!?
IT'S ABOUT THE GLAMOUR! SPARKLING AND SHINING! KOI FIT PERFECTLY INTO ALL THAT!!
DON'T YOU KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT ANCIENT ROME!?

LOOK WHAT I HAD MADE FOR THIS RENOVATION!! TA-DAAA!!
ZA CHAKCHOI
TEN BUSTY VENUSES !!
...
...
ばいーん
BAIIN CHUNGO
THEY'LL BE LININ' UP FOR MILES TO GET IN, BABY!!
INSTEAD, WE GIVE 'ER A NICE HEALTHY RACK TO STARE AT!!
FLAT
BOOBS
NOBODY WANTS TO SEE NO FLAT-CHESTED VENUS DE MILO!!
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!!
...
HERE'S MY SECRET CROWD-PLEASER...
ZUN CHUNGO
ずいー
BUT THIS AIN'T EVEN THE REAL KICKER!!

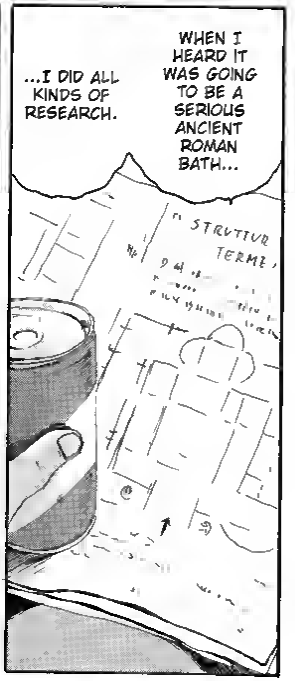
びかあああ
PIKAAA (FLASH)
...A SOLID GOLD BATH-TUB!!
AND KOI FISH !!!
GOLD! TITTIES!!
...
...
220 POUNDS OF PURE GOLD!!
.....
NOW STOP QUIBBLIN' AND GET TO WORK!!
POFU (SMD)
MY IMAGE OF THE ROMAN BATH IS THE DREAM OF THE PEOPLE!!



BUT YOU KNOW THE STRAITS OUR COMPANY'S IN, RIGHT?
.....
YES, I DO...

YOUR EXPERTISE IS IN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE-STYLE BATHS. YOU SHOULDN'T BE WORKIN' ON THIS...
LOOK, YOSHIDA, I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS..

...BUT I HAD NO IDEA HE WOULD ASK FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. .
IT MIGHT NOT BE JAPANESE, BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING FASCINATING ..
LIKE THE BATHS OF CARACALLA OR THE ROMAN BATHS IN ENGLAND...


...I DID ALL KINDS OF RESEARCH.
WHEN I HEARD IT WAS GOING TO BE A SERIOUS ANCIENT ROMAN BATH...
STRUTTUR TERME

...
JUST FORGET ABOUT THE RESULT AND GIVE THE MAN WHAT HE WANTS!
BUT LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO USE IT...

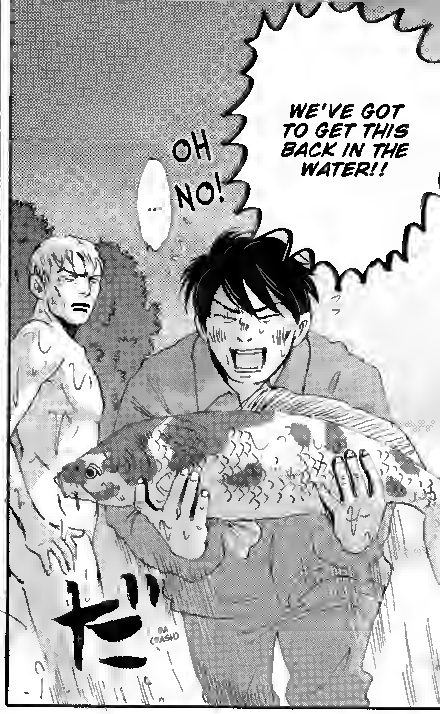
COME ON, YOSHIDA! DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'RE AN EMPLOYEE OF THIS COMPANY!
I HAVEN'T
.....
THIS IS YOUR LIVELIHOOD ON THE LINE! WHY BE PICKY ABOUT IT?
LOOK, YOU CAN'T JUST TURN DOWN A GOOD-PAYING JOB LIKE THIS IN TODAY'S ECONOMY.
YES, SIR.
WELL, MAKE SURE YOU WRAP UP EARLY AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
KUWA CAW!
くわぁ
月見温泉大改装
5月末グランドオー
I♥湯トピ
スパランド
(株)須佐建設株式会
KUWA
くわぁ

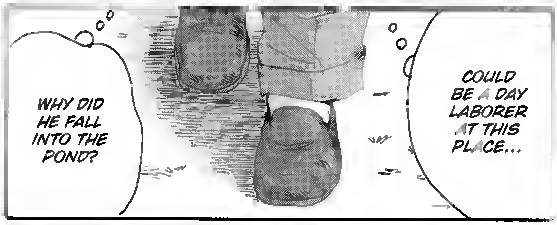
I LOVE YOU-TOPIA
IS IT EVEN ETHICAL TO USE SUCH A DESCRIPTION?
A ROMAN FANTASY SPA THAT BRINGS ANCIENT ROME TO LIFE...
べしゃり
IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT!
I BET A ROMAN WOULD CRY IF HE COULD SEE THIS!
BOSHI (SCRATCH)
ボリ
ボリ
べしゃ
ポタ
ポタ
ポタ
ポタ
ポタ
ポタ
べたっ
.....

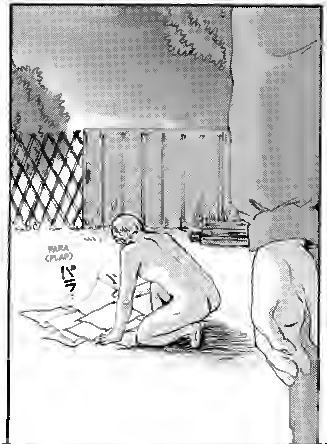
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ビチ
ビチ
ビチ
!?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

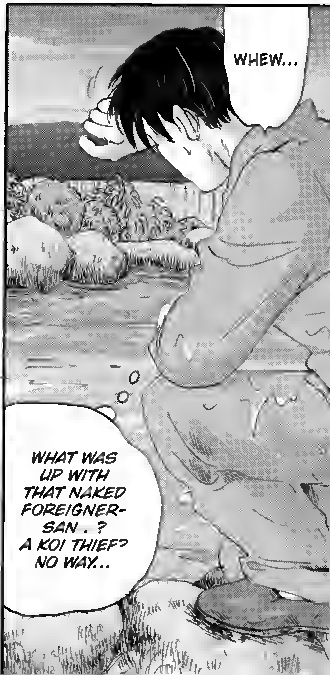
AUGH...
AH...
PIKU
PIKU
PIKU
PIKU
AAAH! THE SCALES ARE COMING OFF!!
WAGHI (GRAB)
わし
AHHH! THAT KOI'S WORTH THREE MILLION YEN!!
THREE! MILLION! YEN!
.....
THAT'S A LOSS OF THIRTY THOUSAND YEN!!

ぼしゃん
BOSHAN (SPLASH)


WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS BACK IN THE WATER!!
OH NO!
...
だ
DA (CRASH)


WHY DID HE FALL INTO THE POND?
COULD BE A DAY LABORER AT THIS PLACE...


PARA (PLAP)
ピチ...

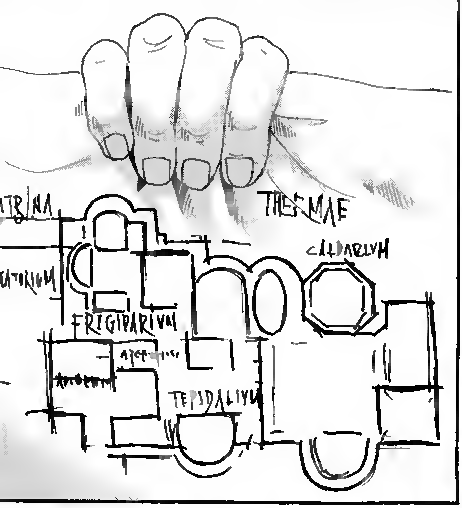

WHEW...
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT NAKED FOREIGNER-SAN . ? A KOI THIEF? NO WAY..

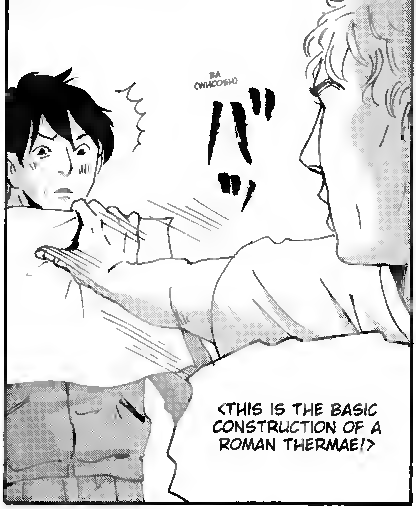
.....
DID YOU JUST SAY... ROME?
HUH!?
<THIS IS...AN IMITATION ROMAN THERMAE...?>
<...ROME...>
BUTSU
BUTSU
BUTSU (MUTTER)
<.....>
<.....>
FURU (SHAKE)
FURU

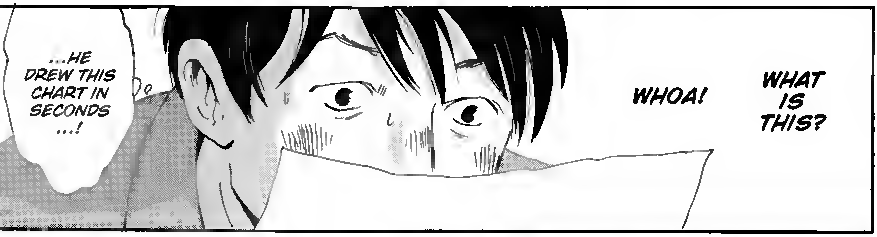
<SO THE GLORY
OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
HAS INDEED REACHED
THIS PLACE!!>
HUH?

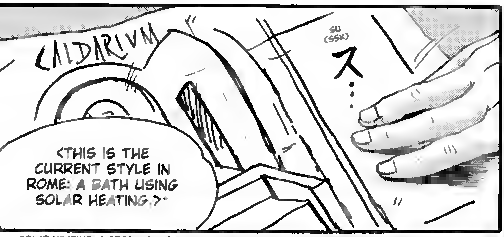
...
AH.
AHHH...
AHHH...
がし
GASH (CHAD)
??
<I UNDERSTAND! YOU HAVE MY FULL COOPERATION!!>
H-HANG ON A SECOND!
UM, YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU SOME CLOTHES!?
ZU (SNIFF)
ズ"
...
ACK!!
AAA-CHOO!!
BUT WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME...?
I GUESS THEY HIRED ME AND A FOREIGN ENGINEER...
THAT'S A RELIEF
I THINK I HAVE THAT T-SHIRT THE CHIEF GAVE ME LYING AROUND SOMEWHERE...

I♡湯トピア改装中
平面図
<THIS DIAGRAM MAY SEEM WELL-PLANNED...>
<...BUT YOU WILL NOT SEE THESE FEATURES IN ANY ACTUAL THERMAE IN ROME!>
CHART: I'OYOU-TOPIA RENOVATION BLUEPRINT
SHIRT: WELCOME TO KYOTO
<.....!?
<.....!?
...HUH? I DON'T GET IT, HA-HA...
<.....>
<.....>
<.....>
IS HE SAYING THESE ARE NO GOOD?
Kyoto
どすえ
しゃ
SHA
SHA!
SHA!SHO
しゃ
しゃ
SHA
しゃ
SHA
....


THERMAE
FRIGIDARIVM
TEPIDARIVM


BA
CHWOOSH!
<THIS IS THE BASIC CONSTRUCTION OF A ROMAN THERMAE!>


...HE DREW THIS CHART IN SECONDS ...!
WHOA!
WHAT IS THIS?


CALIDARIVM
SU (SSH)
<THIS IS THE CURRENT STYLE IN ROME: A BATH USING SOLAR HEATING.>
* SOLAR HEATING: A GREENHOUSE-STYLE BATH WHERE WINDOWS ARE SEALED WITH GLASS TO TRAP HEAT.

YES! THIS IS A ROMAN BATH!
IT'S EXACTLY THE IMAGE OF THOSE ANCIENT ROMAN BATHS I STUDIED...
BA CHWOOSH!

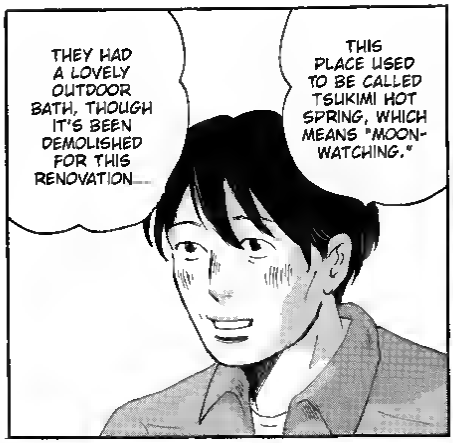
...IT'S NO WONDER A WESTERNER LIKE HIM KNOWS ROMAN BATHS BETTER THAN ME...
THOUGH...
THIS GUY MUST BE A PRO...
...
SUUAK SUUAK

<DO NOT SULLY THE IMAGE OF ROME WITH SUCH A SHAMEFUL STATUE!!>
<WHAT IS THIS TASTELESS DISGRACE OF A VENUS!?>
Kyoto
<HER BREASTS ARE UNNATURALLY LARGE!!>
...
<THIS IS THE PROPER STYLE OF STATUE TO BE PLACED IN THE BATH!>
<THE CALDARIUM MUST BE HERE...>
<NEXT!!>
THIS MAN SEEMS QUITE PASSIONATE...
<THE BUST OF THE FEMALE MUST BE THIS SIZE!>
<AND THERE MUST BE STATUES OF A MALE GOD AS WELL AS FEMALE!>
ENVS

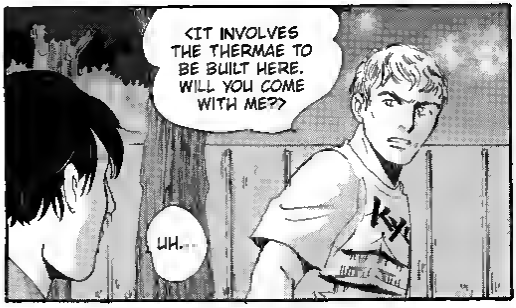
<MOSAIC! DO YOU KNOW IT?>
<THE FLOOR SHOULD BE A MOSAIC.>
HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE FLOOR, I GUESS...
OHH! YOU MEAN LIKE A MOSAIC?
<LIKE THIS!?>
<RIGHT ABOUT HERE!>
I SUPPOSE THIS AREA WOULD BE THE CHANGING ROOM..
SO THE CEILING IS ARCHED..
OHH.
THIS IS FUN...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE STEPPED OUT OF ANCIENT ROMAN HISTORY..
COGITO UT
I THINK THERE-FORE...
...SIC!
...IT IS!
どすえ

I'M REALLY, HONESTLY.. ENJOYING MYSELF!!
Kyoto
INCREDIBLE...
HA HA HA
JUST HANGING AROUND WITH THIS GUY MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I CAN SEE THE BATHS OF ANCIENT ROME FLOATING BEFORE MY EYES..
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

?
Kyoto
SORRY ABOUT THIS! WE ONLY HAVE LIGHTS TO COVER SO FAR AT NIGHT...
<THE MOON IS BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR LAND.>
<IT'S AS THOUGH DIANA HERSELF MIGHT APPEAR...>
<IT'S BEAUTIFUL...>


THEY HAD A LOVELY OUTDOOR BATH, THOUGH IT'S BEEN DEMOLISHED FOR THIS RENOVATION...
THIS PLACE USED TO BE CALLED TSUKIMI HOT SPRING, WHICH MEANS "MOON-WATCHING."

<.....>


<IT INVOLVES THE THERMAE TO BE BUILT HERE. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?>
UH...

<A NEW IDEA HAS POPPED INTO MY HEAD, FLAT-FACED ENGINEER!>
?

IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE HE'S GOT AN IDEA...
WHAT IS IT?

ZUZUZ (DRAG)
ズズ…
<THE THERMAE WALL WILL GO HERE…>
<WE WILL PLACE WINDOWS THAT CAN BE OPENED AND CLOSED HERE…>
<DO YOU NOT THINK WE SHOULD DEDICATE THE VIEW HERE TO DIANA, GODDESS OF THE MOON?>
<I WOULD DO THAT IN A HEARTBEAT!>
I THINK I CAN TELL WHAT HE'S SAYING…
<THEY CAN BE OPENED AT NIGHT TO ALLOW A VIEW OF THE MOON!>
ズ"…
THAT'S THE—!
OH…
<WHAT IS THIS OBJECT!?>
GA (HOOK)
ガ…
!?
ZA (CHIMBO)
サ!!
?

HE SOUNDS ANGRY. BETTER DRAW HIM A PICTURE
<W-WAS THIS TASTELESS TUB TO BE PLACED IN A THERMAE DEVOTED TO DIANA'S HOLY MOON!?>
GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA GARA
ピカーッ
PIKAAA (SPARKLE)
!!

WILL HE UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A NOUVEAU RICHE OLD MAN...?
I HOPE THIS EXPLAINS IT... NOT THAT ANY OF THIS WAS MY IDEA...

SHIT! MONEY

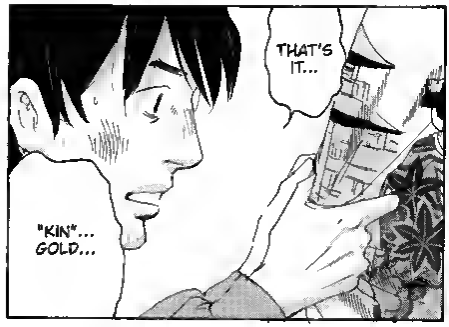
<..BROTHER>
<I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL .>
SIGH~
<.....!?>

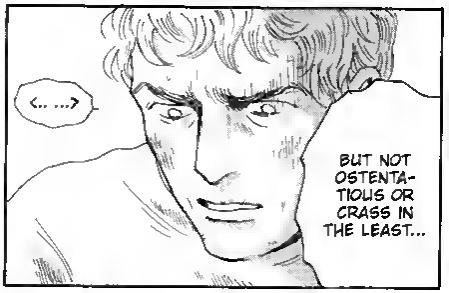
Chapter 17

月見温泉大改装
末グランドオープン
パタ
PATA (FLAP)
パタ
カリ
KARI
KARI (SCRATCH)
カリ
KARI
カリ

ワン
ワオーン
WAN WAOON (ONOOO)
...
カリカリ
KARI KARI (SCRATCH)
Kyoto
I GUESS IT WOULD HELP THE ELDERLY GET IN THE BATH—
IS THAT FOR SITTING ON?
HMM...
<UNDERSTAND? A BENCH!?>
<WE WILL MAKE A STEP ON THE EDGE OF THE BATH BASIN TO BE SAT UPON...>
<.....>
とんとん
TON TON (TAP)
I LIKE IT! THAT'S A GOOD PLAN, SENPAI!!
<THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM...>
Kyoto

GIRA
GIRA
GIRA
GIRA
GIRA
GIRA
.....
.....
<.....>
KOKKE KOKKO COCK-CAWING
SIGH...
<WHAT TO DO WITH THIS...>
THERE'S JUST NO IGNORING IT...
SHIRT. WELCOME TO KYOTO
...
Kyoto
どすえ
...


THAT'S IT...
"KIN"... GOLD...


<... ...>
BUT NOT OSTENTATIOUS OR CRASS IN THE LEAST...

BUT THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE BEAUTY JUST DOESN'T MATCH ANCIENT ROMAN BATHS!
ARRGH!

<.....>

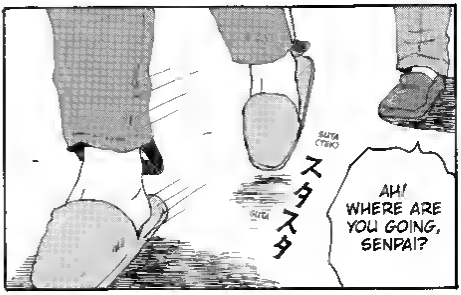
...KINKAKU-JI!!
わ
と
to

IT HAS A GRACE TO IT ENTIRELY FREE FROM THE PRIDE OR SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT THAT MAN WANTS!
↑GOLD LACQUER BOX
OGATA KORIN SCREEN →
BUT IT STILL HAS THAT NOBLE LUSTER THAT NO OTHER COLOR CAN PRODUCE!
↑GOLD KUTANI PORCELAIN

<IS HE SPEAKING OF THIS GOLDEN TEMPLE-LIKE BUILDING?>
<WHAT IS HE GOING ON ABOUT WITH THIS GARMENT?>
BAGA (FLAP)

<A PLACE WHERE A GOD MIGHT RESIDE...?
HUH?

<IT MAY BE GOLD, BUT IF IT SEEMS SUITABLY DIVINE, THERE IS GRACE AND BEAUTY TO IT...>
<...I SEE!>


スタスタ
AH! WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SENPAI?

DIANA

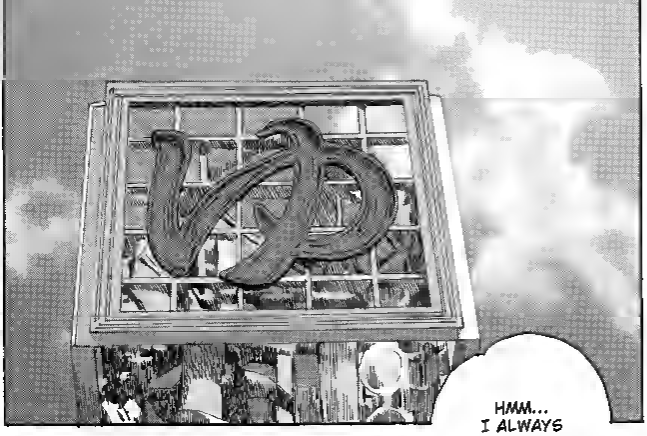
D... DIANA?
DIANA
<AND HERE IS THE GOLDEN BATH ..>

.....
<MEANING THIS!!>

I THINK HE WANTS TO PUT A STATUE OF THIS DIANA GODDESS NEXT TO THE GOLDEN TUB...
<A STATUE OF DIANA, GODDESS OF THE HUNT AND THE MOON, ABOVE THE TUB WILL IMBUE THAT GOLDEN SHINE WITH DIVINITY!?
TRUE, IT MIGHT GIVE THIS SILLY THING SOME SOLEMNITY...
HANG ON, I'LL GO BUY YOU A HOT CAN OF COFFEE!
SENPAI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS KNOWING HOW MAD THAT OLD MAN WILL BE WHEN HE FINDS OUT WE'RE USING HIS TUB FOR DECORATION ONLY...
BWA-
CHOO!
I OUGHT TO WASH MY FACE..
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!

OH WELL. I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE THE WATER FLOWING INTO THIS POND...
Kyoto
じょぼぼぼぼ
THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL BUT EERIE FISH..
じゃば～
ぱ～く
ぱ～く
DOES HE TAKE HIS COFFEE BLACK?
とぽん！
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
LIKE SOMETHING FALLING INTO THE POND...

HUH?
SENPAI?
I BROUGHT YOU SOME COFFEE!
SENPAI!
WHERE DID HE GO...?
コッ
コッ
KONKE KONKO COUCH-A SOUTHE ROYO
...
LOOK AT THE SUN... MAYBE HE LEFT?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT OLD MAN WILL AGREE TO THIS...
DIANA
...BUT I'LL DO IT ANYWAY!
I HAVE TO TRUST IN SENPAI'S JUDG-MENT!

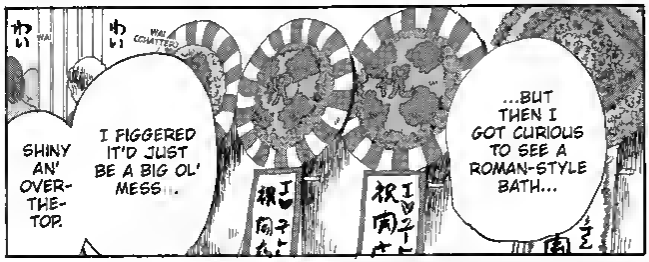


HMM... I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE OLD TSUKIMI WAS PRETTY GOOD...

...AN' I DIDN'T THINK I'D NEVER WANNA GO IN NO GAUDY PLACE LIKE THIS...

YEP, YEP.

THREE MONTHS LATER...



SHINY AN' OVER-THE-TOP.

I FIGGERED IT'D JUST BE A BIG OL' MESS.

...BUT THEN I GOT CURIOUS TO SEE A ROMAN-STYLE BATH...

ABOVE: 1 OYOU-TOPIA GRAND OPENING! / BELOW: ROMAN FANTASY SPA THIS WAY

AHHH...

OH, I KNOW.

BUT THEN I GET HERE FOR MESELF, AND...

IT'S THE MOST RELAXING PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN...
TELL ME ABOUT IT...
WA HA HA HA!
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS PLACE? IT'S WESTERN-STYLE POMP, BUT THERE'S STILL THAT FEELIN' OF "WABI"...
WELL PUT!
YEAH, EXACTLY!
AHHH
AND THERE AIN'T NO TIME O' DAY LIKE RIGHT NOW...
IT'S THE SAME OL' TSUKIMI HOT SPRING MOON...
WHAT A GORGEOUS VIEW...

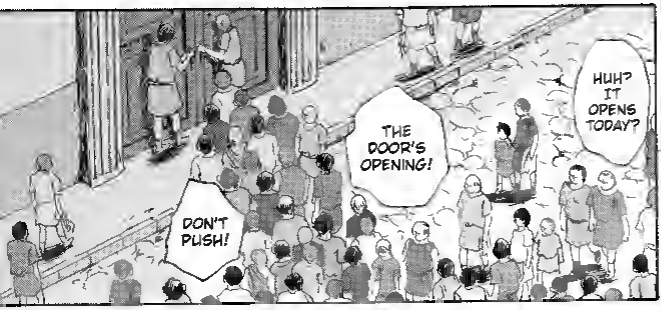
THAT HOLY GOLDEN SHINE MAKES ME THINK OF KINKAKU-JI, HA-HA...
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL UNDER THE MOONLIGHT...
MUST BE SOME WESTERN GODDESS, I SUPPOSE...
PUTTIN' THAT GOLDEN TUB AN' STATUE AT THE EDGE OF THE POND WAS THE RIGHT CALL.
HO HO HO HO!
...
バシャ
バシャ
QUITE A JOB, IN-DEED!!
SIGH: ROMAN FANTASY SPA
WELL, WELL, WELL! I HAFTA SAY, YOU REALLY BUILT SOME-THIN' HERE, PAL!! THANKS FER EVERY-THING!!
KA HA HA HA!
.....
AT FIRST, I WAS SO SURE YOU'D GONE CRAZY, I WANTED TO WHUP YOU UPSIDE THE HEAD...
THE MAGAZINES AND TV STATIONS ARE FALLIN' OVER EACH OTHER TO COVER MY ROMAN BATH!
ROMA
ローマ
ごろごろ

YOU'VE EARNED YOUR REP!
I'M IMPRESSED, YOSHIDA!
...BUT IT TURNS OUT YOU HAD ONE HELL OF A SURPRISE UP YOUR SLEEVE...
...SENPAI!!
AND IT WAS ALL THANKS TO YOU...
ONE DAY...
WHAT!?
I WILL STRIVE TO BETTER MYSELF...
...UNTIL THE DAY I CAN CALL MYSELF AS TALENTED AN ARCHITECT AS YOU!

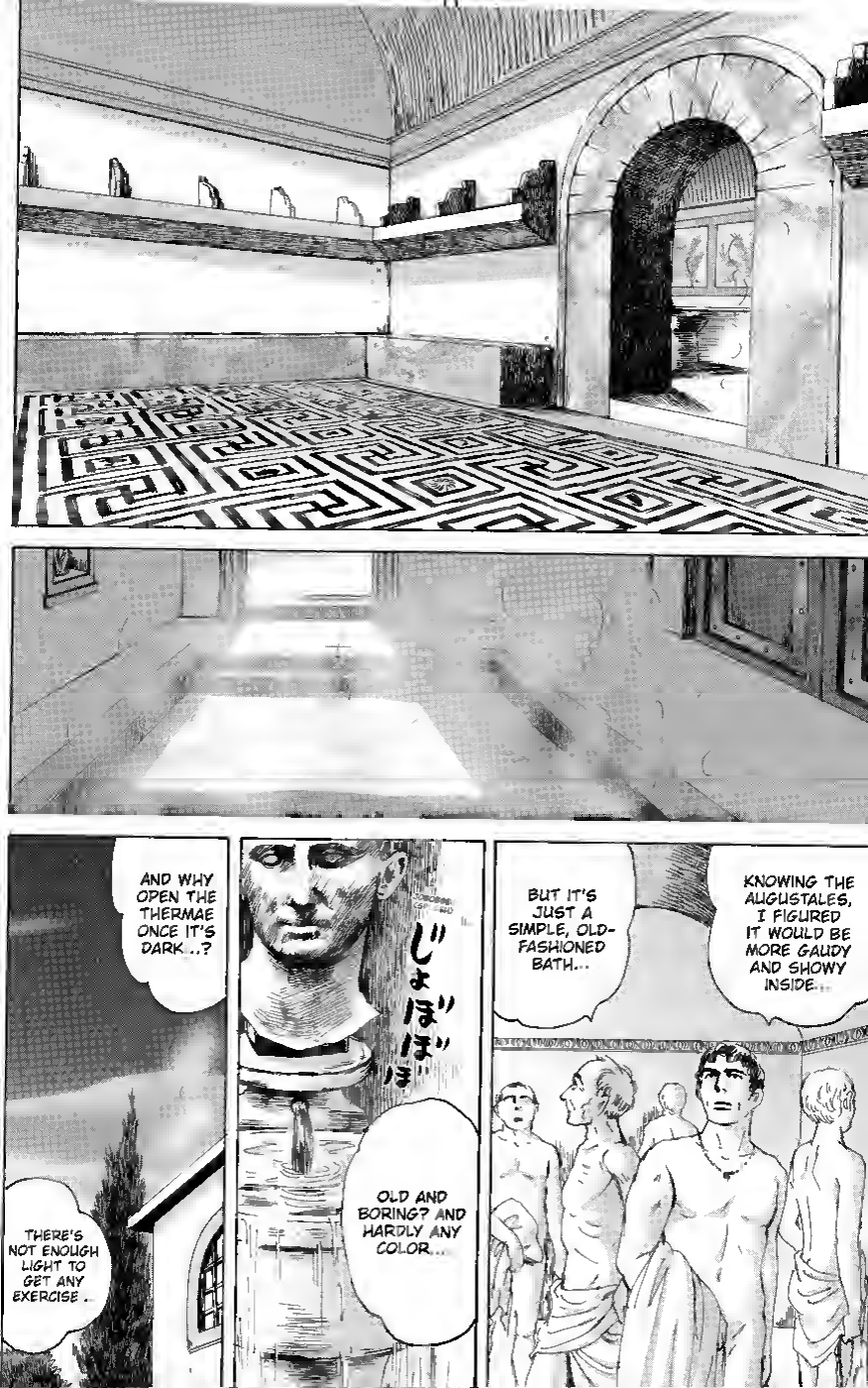
YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE GOLDEN BATH I HAVE A CRAFTSMAN WORKING ON WILL BE USED ONLY FOR DECORATION!?
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, LUCIUS!?
...
WHAT'S THE POINT OF ALL THAT GOLD IF NO ONE USES IT!?
KAKA CHAKO
カーッ
WHEN DID I SAY YOU HAD FREE REIN TO DO AS YOU WISH!?
LET ME ASK...
.....
DO YOU INTEND TO SABOTAGE MY PHIL-ANTHROPIC GESTURE!?
THAT GOLD IS MEANT NOT ONLY TO TANTALIZE THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE, BUT THEIR SKIN AS WELL!

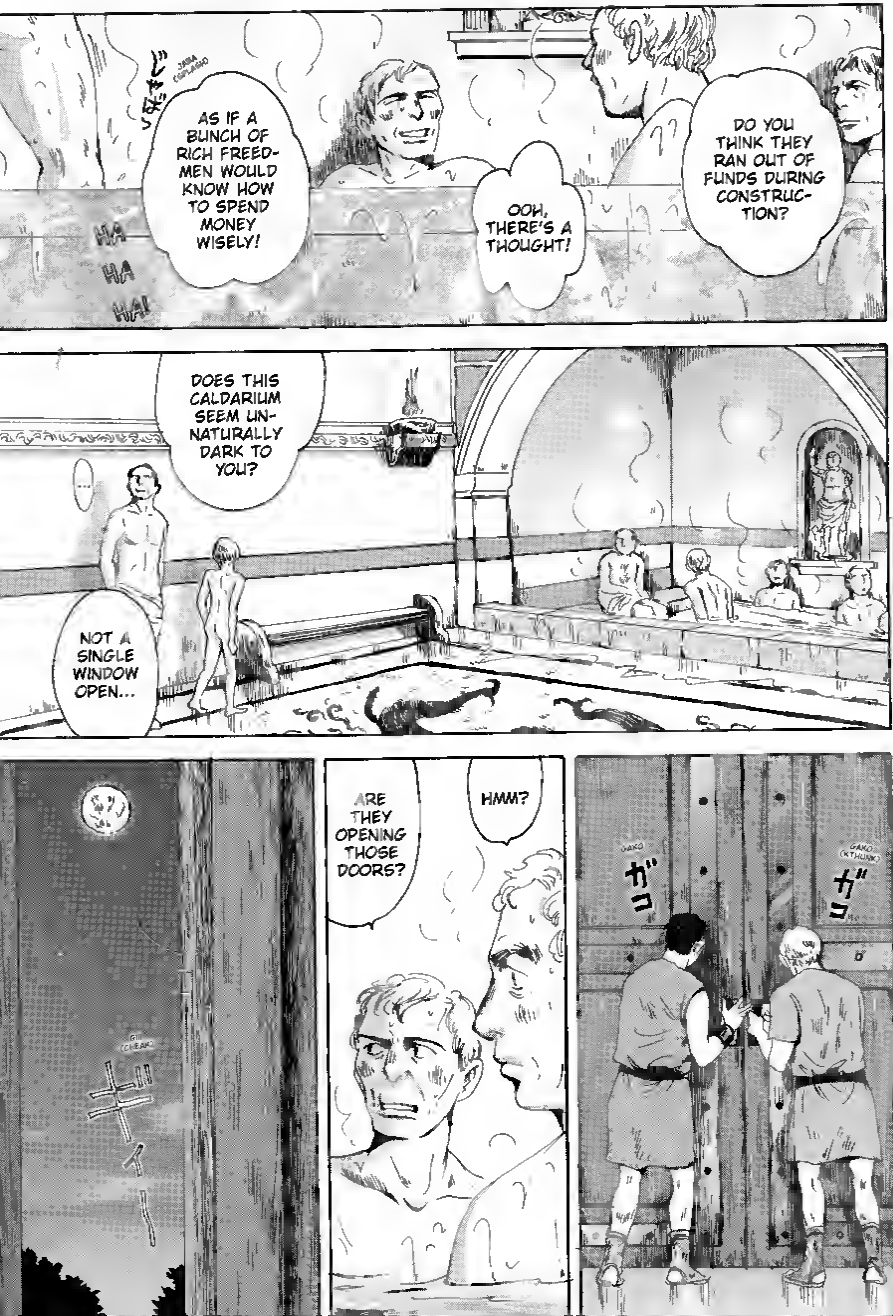
.....
WH-WHAT?
...WHICH DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE ADMIRE MORE?
...BETWEEN GOLD AND GODS...
I WOULD NOT ADMIRE GOLD SMEARED WITH THE DIRT OF THE BATH WOULD YOU?
.....
GOLD'S VALUE COMES FROM THE DIVINITY OF ITS LUSTER ..
THERE, THERE, THERE!
LET'S BE COOL-HEADED, MY FRIENDS!
WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE COLOR IS ONLY SUITABLE FOR THE GODS.

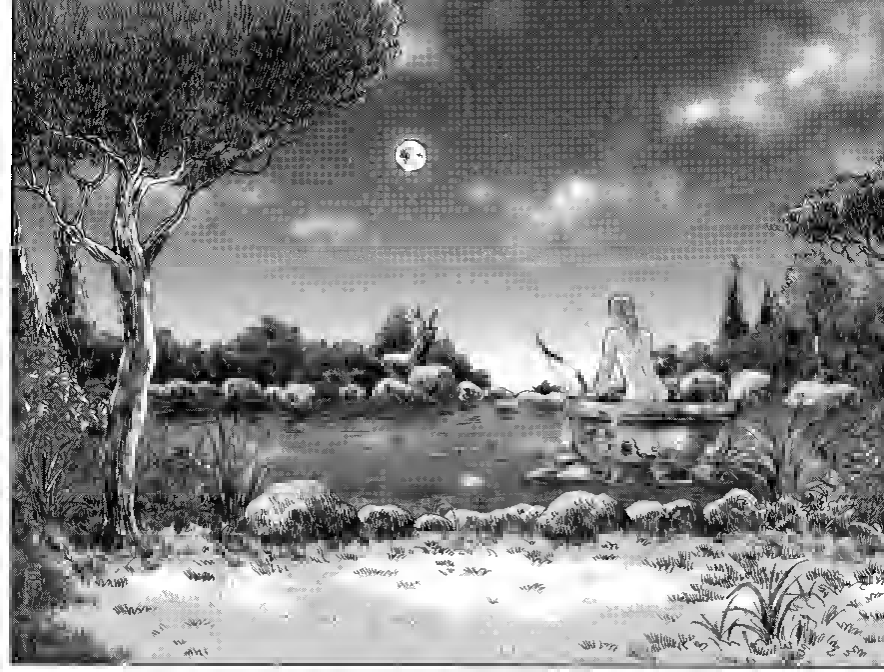
YOU MAY GO FOR TODAY.
THANK YOU.
EVERY IDEA HE'S HAD AFTER NEARLY DROWNING HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE HIT!
ON MY HONOR, IT IS TRUE!
HIGO
HIGO CHUCKLES
MAS-TER ..
BUT WHAT!?
I REALIZE HE'S A BIT ECCENTRIC AND COMES OUT WITH SOME STRANGE IDEAS, BUT...
.....
...
SO LET'S JUST ALLOW HIM TO DO HIS THING... PLEASE?
SENDAI !!
I WONDER HOW THAT FLAT-FACED ENGINEER IS DOING...
THE MOON WAS SO BEAUTIFUL IN THE LAND OF THE FLAT-FACES...
THE EVENING MOON



THREE MONTHS LATER...


KNOWING THE AUGUSTALES, I FIGURED IT WOULD BE MORE GAUDY AND SHOWY INSIDE...
BUT IT'S JUST A SIMPLE, OLD-FASHIONED BATH...
じょぼぼぼ
OLD AND BORING? AND HARDLY ANY COLOR...
AND WHY OPEN THE THERMAE ONCE IT'S DARK ..?
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH LIGHT TO GET ANY EXERCISE .

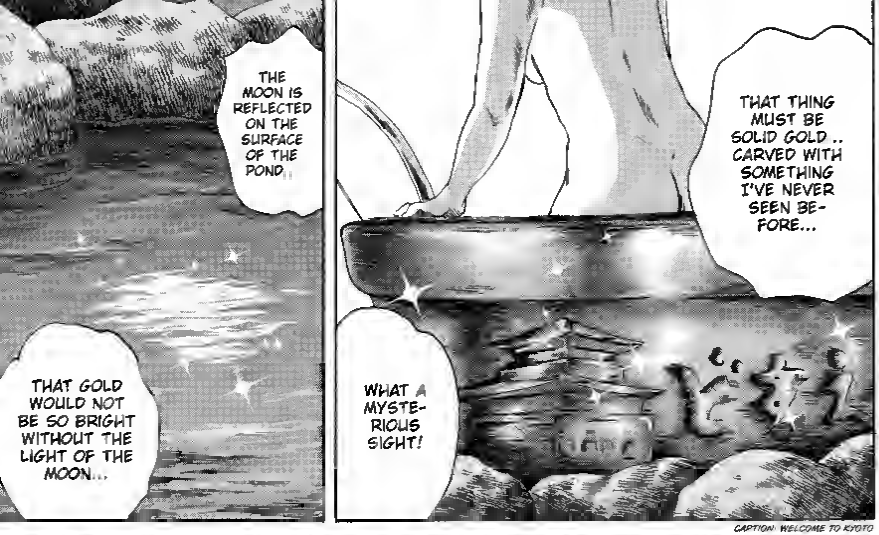

JAMA CAPLANO
AS IF A BUNCH OF RICH FREED-MEN WOULD KNOW HOW TO SPEND MONEY WISELY!
HA HA HA!
OOH, THERE'S A THOUGHT!
DO YOU THINK THEY RAN OUT OF FUNDS DURING CONSTRUC-TION?
DOES THIS CALDARIUM SEEM UN-NATURALLY DARK TO YOU?
...
NOT A SINGLE WINDOW OPEN...
CLEAR
ARE THEY OPENING THOSE DOORS?
HMM?
GAKO
GAKO (KTHUNK)



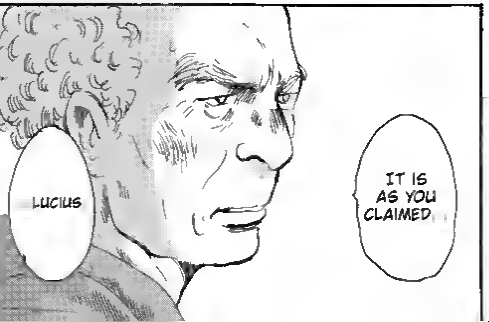
DIANA, GOD-DESS OF THE MOON!
THAT SEDUC-TIVE REAR VIEW...

LOOK! LOOK AT THE TUB SHE'S SITTING IN!
BUT WHY IS SHE TURNING AWAY!? SHINE YOUR RADIANCE UPON US!

OOOH!


THE MOON IS REFLECTED ON THE SURFACE OF THE POND.
THAT GOLD WOULD NOT BE SO BRIGHT WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF THE MOON...
WHAT A MYSTERIOUS SIGHT!
THAT THING MUST BE SOLID GOLD.. CARVED WITH SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

CAPTION: WELCOME TO KYOTO



...
GOLD TRULY IS THE COLOR OF THE GODS...
EVEN A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD CANNOT MATCH EVEN THE TINIEST SCRAP OF GOLD THAT HAS BEEN IMBUED WITH A DIVINE GLEAM...
YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION.
...THROUGH THE MOON OVER THE FLAT-FACES' LAND AND THE TOGA WITH THE GOLDEN TEMPLE ON IT...
BUT I ONLY DISCOVERED THE TRUE VALUE OF GOLD...
YOU HAVE MY THANKS, ENGI-NEER!
I CAN SEE WHY THE EMPEROR IS LOATHE TO LET YOU GO.
HAIL, LUCIUS!!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS IDEA WITHOUT THE HELP OF THAT FLAT-FACED ARCHITECT...

HUFF
HUFF
S-SOME OLD GUY...FROM THE SENATE...
...NEEDS YOU AT ONCE...
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU!
WHY SO PANICKED, MARCUS ...?
HUFF
HUFF
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG... BUT IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE EMPEROR!
WHAT!?
THE SENATE?
だ!!
HAS SOME-THING HAPPENED TO HIS HIGH-NESS!?

ENGI-
NEER
MODES-
TUS.
I AM
LUCIUS
MODES-
TUS!
HUFF
HUFF
I BEG YOUR
PARDON, BUT I
WOULD LIKE YOU
TO COME WITH
ME TO TIBUR*
RIGHT AWAY.
MY NAME IS
ANTONIUS.
*TIBUR: THE EMPEROR'S MANSION
IT REGARDS
THE FUTURE
EMPEROR,
AELIUS
CAESAR...
THE
EMPEROR IS
PERFECTLY
FINE.
NO.
H-HAS
SOMETHING
HAPPENED
TO HIS HIGH-
NESS!?
.....
WHAT!?

There is a satirical novel known as *Satyricon*, written by Petronius, an adviser to Emperor Nero. It's known today as the basis for Fellini's film of the same name. There's a scene in the book known as "Trimalchio's dinner," which describes the flamboyant freedman Trimalchio's elaborate and extravagant dinner party. His haughtiness and pretensions to great knowledge are exposed as a sham, to the entertainment of his guests.

This depiction of a former slave who has amassed great wealth but not the respect of others in the wealthy class sheds great light on status and reputation in ancient Rome. A former slave might gain freedom and wealth, but he would never truly gain the respect and welcome of the Roman elite who were free from birth.

By the way, the general class structure of Imperial Rome had four categories: *ingenui*, the Roman citizens; *liberti*, freed slaves; *servi*, slaves; and *peregrini*, foreigners. The peregrini were the people of countries that had been subjugated by the Romans, such as the Greeks, but they were not given citizenship. If Japan were conquered by the Romans in *Thermae Romae*, the "flat-faces" would fall into this peregrini category. From what we know, freed slaves with Roman citizenship actually lived far better lives than the peregrini.

As for how slaves were freed, the majority were released from their service according to the last will of their masters. In another frequent case, slaves who had been given money to invest by their masters who then proved to be shrewd businessmen were granted their freedom in recognition of their talent.

At any rate, it's easy to imagine that going from a slave—the lowest class of all, less than human—to a free man was a dramatic shift. One can see how a character such as Trimalchio would wish to throw such a preposterous and extravagant feast.

Slaves are placed under the most cruel of conditions, not allowed a single option of their own in the matter of their continued survival. I don't think a person in modern society can fully understand the feeling of release that comes with knowing freedom after a life of intense yearning, but at the same time, most of them held a strong intention of upward mobility that would not be satisfied solely with liberation. It's said that the existence of these men was a vital force in the prosperity of Roman society, and for a variety of reasons, the system of slavery was an inseparable part of the history and structure of that society.

However, no matter how much money they might make in business, no matter how luxurious a life they could lead, there was one thing that freedmen could not have in ancient Rome: office. Freedmen could not be nobles or join the Senate.

The Augustales that appear in this most recent episode were an order of successful freedmen who gathered to worship a deification of Augustus, the first emperor of Rome. However, this right was limited based on region—freedmen within the city of Rome could not join. It is said that joining this order and thus becoming a priest of Augustus was the equivalent of reaching knighthood in Roman society

Cover of the Japanese DVD of *Satyricon*

There are about 2,500 written instances of the Augustales on record, and Trimalchio, the character from Satyricon mentioned earlier, is described as a member.

I don't know if all such Augustales were as crass and tasteless as Trimalchio or the man I inserted in my story. But we have found an Augustales shrine in the ruins of Herculaneum beneath Mount Vesuvius, and inside there was a record documenting the services the order had rendered and its dedication to the people of Rome. There are magnificent frescoes inside the shrine which appear far finer and more decadent than examples found in other ruins from the same period.

However, we also know that Rome at the time was generally a golden and shining sight, so that taste for the excessive might not have been limited to the Augustales.

The ruins we know today might be temples and statues of pure white marble, but nearly all of them were originally painted in rich colors. Even the buildings in the Roman Forum were colored in brilliant shades of blue and red with gold decoration, as we have found from pigment traces in the plaster. Not only that, but all of the statues of Roman gods and emperors were either covered in gold or painted in human colors, like figurines.

The original version of this statue of Augustus.

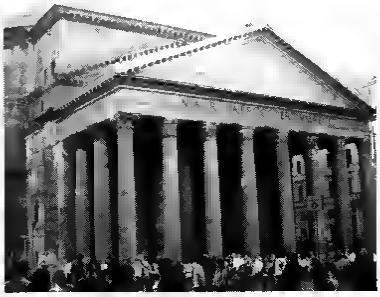
An Augustales *collegium* in the ruins of Herculaneum, Italy.

Visiting the ruins of villas from that time period turns up a shocking number of quite gaudy art pieces. But at the same time, the floor tiles and frescoes are tasteful and minimalist, with an eye for quality rather than showiness. So it would seem the Romans had a wide variety of tastes when it came to the aesthetic.

Hadrian's villa contains floor tiles that offer a glimpse at his refined artistic sense. However, the other day, I got a frantic call from Masahiko Okumura, my editor, saying, "Oh my God! On TV they're saying Had-yan's (his nickname for Hadrian) Pantheon was all covered in gold! Doesn't this mean he had the same tastes as Nero!?" Neither my husband nor I could quite accept this, so we consulted our home library, but all we could find was that the ceiling and the illuminated *tympana* (tympanum; a decorative surface bounding an arch) of the Pantheon were golden. It's hard to imagine that a man as fussy and sensitive about coloration as Hadrian would allow his entire temple to be coated in gold, but even if it were the case, it wasn't likely to stick out much, given the gaudiness of its surroundings.

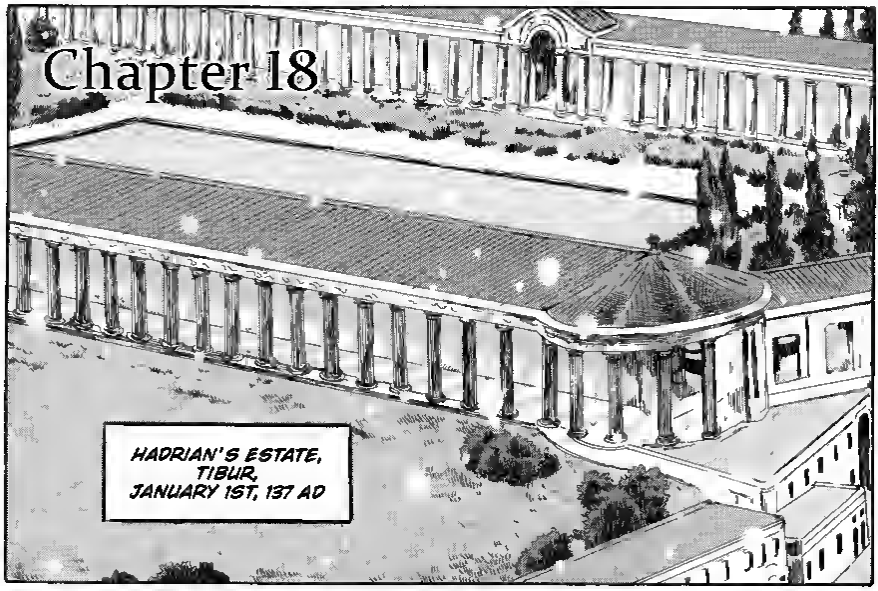
Perhaps the power and divine glory of gold is a sensation shared by humans of all regions and cultures. Even our Toyotomi Hideyoshi was fascinated with it.

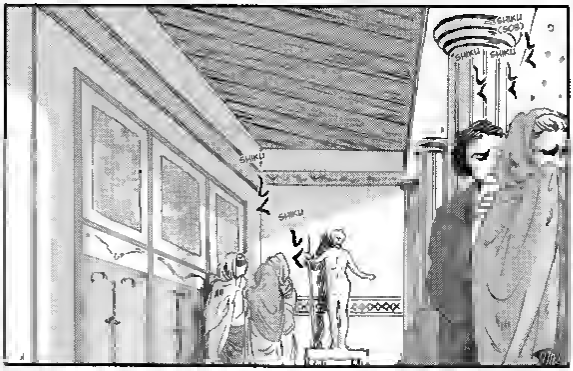
Gleaming golden Had-yan

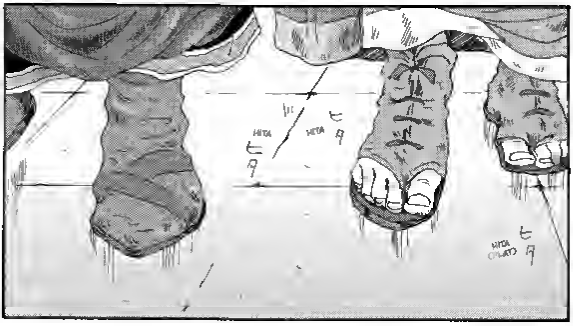


Hadrian's Pantheon, one of the great masterpieces of Roman architecture.

Chapter 18


HADRIAN'S ESTATE,
TIBUR,
JANUARY 1ST, 137 AD


GUKU
GUKU
GUKU
GUKU
GUKU


HITA
HITA
HITA

SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
...
POOR AELIUS...
SOB...
WHEN HE FIRST TRAVELED TO PANNONIA.
.....
WHEN DID AELIUS CAESAR'S CONDITION BEGIN TO WORSEN, ANTONINUS?

THE SENATE, THE MILITARY, EVERYONE...
WE ALL FORESAW THIS UNFORTUNATE CONCLUSION.
SOB...
.....
IT WAS TOO FIERCE A CLIMATE FOR AELIUS'S CONSTITUTION...
...ALL EXCEPT FOR EMPEROR HADRIAN.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR SENSES, MADAM!
OHHH...
MAMA!
.....
.....

DON'T CRY, MAMA!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO CRY!

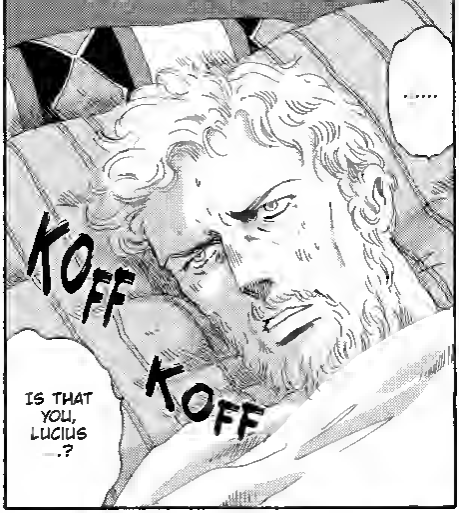
.....BUT...
KEEP MY SENSES? I AM RUINED WITHOUT HIM!

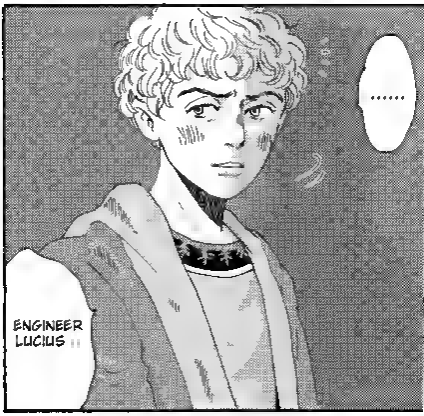
ANTONINUS, LUCIUS— AELIUS AWAITS YOU WITHIN.

...
OH, LUCIUS...
MAMA!

ENTER...

KOFF
...
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF


.....
KOFF
KOFF
IS THAT YOU, LUCIUS ...?


.....
ENGINEER LUCIUS !!

I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU...
AELIUS...

HMM!?
ROSES!?

むぎゅ
MUGYU (SQUISH)

KOFF
KOFF
THEY ARE MY FAVORITE FLOWERS.
MY WIFE BROUGHT THEM...
...YES..
...
LET'S GO...
AS YOU WISH...
FORGIVE ME, ANTONINUS, MARCUS. CAN YOU LEAVE ME ALONE WITH LUCIUS...?
YES.
...
LUCIUS...
...YOUR BATH DID WONDERS FOR ME IN PANNONIA...
...

DON'T BE PREPOS-TEROUS...
YOU ARE HADRIAN'S PERSONAL ARCHITECT... I KNOW YOU ARE QUITE BUSY.

I OUGHT TO HAVE TRAVELED TO PANNONIA TO BUILD YOU A PROPER BATH.
PERHAPS THEN THIS WOULDN'T HAVE...

LUCIUS ...
...I HAVE LITTLE TIME LEFT...

WHENEVER ANYTHING GOES WRONG, YOU ARE QUICK TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY...
HUH!?
HA-HA... YOU ARE DEADLY SERIOUS TO A FAULT...
KOFF
KOFF

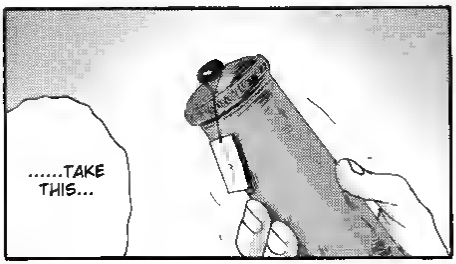
IT WAS NOT... A LONG LIFE...
...BUT IT WAS FULL OF JOY AND LOVE...

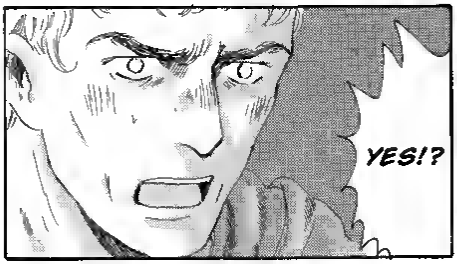
...
YOU CANNOT SAY THAT, AELIUS!!

EVEN IF I DIE NOW, I HAVE NO REGRETS IN THE LIFE I LIVED..
...EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...
TODAY WAS THE DAY I WAS TO ANNOUNCE MY GRATITUDE AT BEING NAMED THE NEXT EMPEROR BEFORE THE GENERAL PUBLIC...
KOFF
KOFF
..BUT IN MY CONDITION, I CAN DO NO SUCH THING...
I COULD NOT LIVE UP TO MY FATHER'S HOPES...
...
IT PAINS ME...
THIS GLORIOUS EMPIRE WAS BUILT BY MANY GREAT AND MIGHTY MEN, INCLUDING MY FATHER...

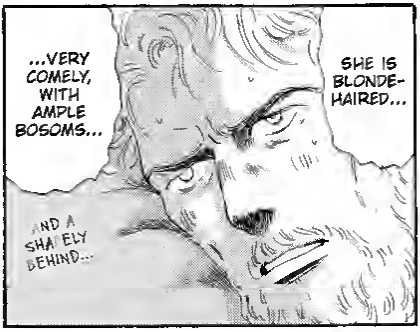
YOU HAVE GIVEN BODY AND MIND FOR ROME...
...AND I HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU FOR IT...
IT WAS MY ROLE, MY DUTY TO FOLLOW FATHER'S LEAD AND BRING GREATER PROSPERITY AND PEACE TO THE EMPIRE...
KOFF
KOF
NNH...
KOFF
ANY-THING!
PLEASE!
LUCIUS...

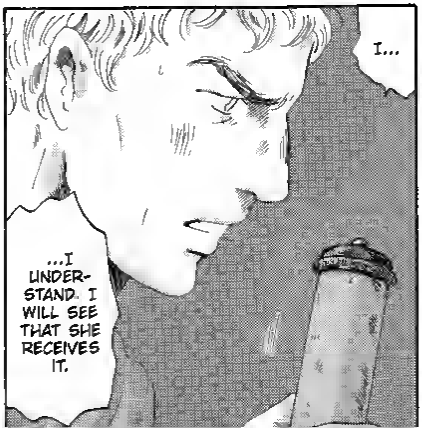
SO COMPLY?
..IN MY STEAD...
.. SUPPORT FATHER AND MARCUS...
...WHAT HAVE I DONE...?
...I WOULD BE HONORED TO...
I...
...I HAVE ONE MORE REQUEST...
KOFF
KOFF
YES!
OF COURSE!! MY LIFE IS YOURS TO COMMAND!!
ALL THIS TIME, I ASSUMED AELIUS WAS A WEAK-WILLED FOOL...
HOW WRONG I HAVE BEEN!!
I HAVE BEEN UNDER A TERRIBLE MISCONCEPTION!!
LUCIUS...


.....TAKE THIS...


YES!?

GOSO
GOSO (RUSTLE)


...VERY COMELY, WITH AMPLE BOSOMS...
SHE IS BLONDE-HAIRED...
AND A SHAPELY BEHIND...


I...
...I UNDER-STAND. I WILL SEE THAT SHE RECEIVES IT.

MIRI-AM!?
I WANT YOU TO GIVE THIS TO A GIRL NAMED MIRIAM WHO LIVES ON THE STREET OF MERCURY.

THIS ONE IS FOR MARIA, THE COOK HERE...
THIS ONE IS FOR OCTAVIA ON AVONDANZA STREET...
...AND THIS IS FOR FILIPPA ON MINERVA STREET...
. AND ..
ごそ
ごそ
ごそ
HUH.. .....?

TEN MINUTES LATER

KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
NOW I CAN... REST IN PEACE...
A... AELIUS!!
SOME-ONE, COME QUICK!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER!?
バタン
BATAN (SLAM)
OH, MY DEAR, DEAR HUS-BAND!!
HANG IN THERE, MY LOVE!!
THIS IS NOT GOOD!
.....

I HAVE NOT SEEN HADRIAN, BUT I'M SURE HIS GRIEF MUST BE GREAT...
, ELIUS CAESAR HAS PASSED AWAY...

LUCIUS!!
ANOTHER TEN YEARS... JUST TEN YEARS OF GOOD HEALTH FOR HADRIAN, AND...
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT IS HADRIAN'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE?
HE STILL HAS MARCUS, BUT THE BOY IS MERELY SIXTEEN...
.....
HUFF
HUFF
...BUT CAN I ASK FOR YOUR HELP...?
F- FORGIVE ME ..
ANTONI- NUS...
HUFF
HUFF
HERE YOU ARE...
WHAT!?
NO ONE CAN CALM HIM...!
HADRIAN IS SIMPLY DEVASTATED, DRIVEN MAD...
HUFF
HUFF
HELP...?

RRRGH!!
HUFF
HUFF
Y-YOUR HIGH-NESS! YOU MUST CALM YOURSELF, I BEG OF YOU...
I CAN NEVER FORGIVE HIM!!
AELIUS, YOU WEAK-LING!!

YOU FOOL!!
YOU DAMNABLE FOOL!!
HUFF
HUFF
.....
HISO
CHIMPEIRO
HISO
SOB...
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
HOW COULD I HAVE SPENT THREE BILLION SESTERTII ON THAT MAN!!?

AELIUS!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DIE!?
AAAHH...
YOU MUST REGAIN YOUR WITS...
CALM YOUR-SELF...
.....
MY EMPEROR
WHY!?
WHY HAVE YOU LEFT ME ALL ALONE!?
AAAHH...
...

...THE THERMAE WITH ME...?
WILL YOU VISIT...
THERMAE ..?
.....
F-FORGIVE ME ..
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
YOU WANT TO TAKE A BATH!? AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
...HIGH-NESS...
...IT IS NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA...

……
ザバー

...
TRUE .. PERHAPS A GOOD BATH IS WHAT I NEEDED RIGHT NOW...
SENDING AELIUS, WITH HIS WEAK CONSTITUTION, TO PANNONIA WAS THE WRONG DECISION.
UPON CALMER REFLECTION, I CAN SEE...
I SET MY WEIGHT AGAINST A WALL THAT COULD NOT HOLD IT, LUCIUS.
.. THAT I CHOSE POORLY.

NOW MY STANDING, SHOULD I DIE, IS EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE...
NO DOUBT THE SENATE IS QUITE PLEASED WITH ITSELF, SEEING MY CURRENT PREDICAMENT..
HAAH
...
.ENOUGH TIME TO RESTART THE PROCESS ONCE AGAIN ..?
DO I EVEN HAVE...

...BUT THAT HIS LIFE WAS FULL OF JOY AND LOVE...
AELIUS SAID THAT IT WAS HIS GREATEST REGRET THAT HE COULD NOT LIVE UP TO THE ROLE YOU HAD FOR HIM...
EMPEROR HADRIAN!!
...
HE ASKED ME TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU AND MARCUS...
PLEASE, ORDER ME AS YOU WILL!!
IF THERE IS ANYTHING A HUMBLE MAN LIKE MYSELF CAN DO, I WILL DEDICATE MY LIFE AND SOUL TO IT!!
.....
HAH.
I WILL STRIVE TO DEVELOP A NEW BATH...
...ONE THAT WILL GIVE YOU TEN OR TWENTY MORE YEARS OF LIFE!!
HA HA HA!

BUT THERE IS ELSE YOU COULD BE DOING.
LUCIUS...I UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE YOUR INTENTION.
...UNTIL MARCUS IS FIT TO TAKE THE THRONE...
SOMEONE WHO CAN INHERIT MY DIRECTION..
HOW CAN I DO THIS THING YOU ASK OF ME?
I AM BUT A SIMPLE ARCHITECT
AND I WISH FOR YOU TO OVERSEE THAT PERSON, TO ENSURE THAT HE STAYS THE COURSE.
ASIDE FROM THE MATTER OF HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT TO ME, THERE IS A NEW HEIR TO NAME.

I WANT THE NEXT EMPEROR TO ORDER THE RENOVATION OF THE HOT SPRING THERMAE IN BAIAE*...
I WAS PLANNING TO ASK SOMETHING OF YOU WHEN AELIUS BEGAN HIS REIGN.
*BAIAE: A HOT SPRING RESORT IN NAPLES. MANY EMPERORS BUILT VILLAS THERE.
YES.
BAIAE? IN CAMPANIA?
...WHILE YOU WATCH OVER MARCUS'S GROWTH.
I WANT YOU TO PURSUE THIS PROJ-ECT...
THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT MY SUCCESSOR MUST WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU FOR MANY YEARS.
...AND YOU HOLD THE KEY TO THE CUSTOM THAT PRESERVES THE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY OF ROME!
THE BATH IS A CRUCIAL PIECE OF ROMAN LIFE...
NUNZIA CUTRANO
WHAT A TASK...

もわ〜
MOWAA
LUCIUS!?
WILL YOU DO THIS, LUCIUS? FOR THE ROMAN EMPIRE?
FORGIVE ME, IMPERATOR...
ブン
BUN
ブン
BUN (WAVE)
THE AIR IS COLD OUTSIDE THE BUILDING...
HMM...
もふぁ〜
MOFA (STEAM)
THE STEAM IS UNBELIEV-ABLE...
HMM?
ハラ
HARA (TUMMY)
じゃぶ...
JABU (SPLASH)
WHAT IS THIS!?

It was no trivial matter for the Roman Emperor to choose a successor. In Hadrian's time, the dynastic line was not the practiced line of succession. Instead, the emperor would take a wise and able man to be his son-in-law, and it is believed that this process often inspired many political battles. However, it is certain that this was a much more stable and proper means of ceding control than heritage by birth. The five emperors who ruled around the time of Hadrian were known as the "Five Good Emperors" because they proved they had the leadership and political acumen to rule before they reached the throne

I depicted Aelius Caesar, the man whom Hadrian chose to be his successor, as a lecherous, weak-willed, sickly man, but in reality he was a fascinating, many-faceted character. No doubt any readers familiar with Yourcenar's *Memoirs of Hadrian* and its portrait of Aelius as a wise and beautiful man might take offense at the buffoon who appears in *Thermae Romae*. I hope you will accept my feeble excuse that this is merely a comedy manga. Incidentally, the name Aelius Caesar was only taken after he was adopted. His original name was Ceionius Commodus, and he was called "Ceionius" on several previous occasions in the manga

The son of a noble Etrurian family, Aelius is described in virtually every surviving text as a beautiful man with golden locks. His handsome visage in combination with Hadrian's well-documented predilection for younger men led to dark murmurs about the nature of his inheritance. In fact, Aelius's soft and decadent tastes and manners were so un-imperious that many even speculated that he might be Hadrian's son by birth, such was his apparent lack of suitability to the throne.

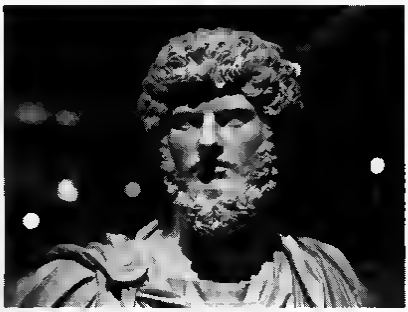
An Aelius Caesar coin Very rare, as he died before he became emperor.

Aelius Caesar He looks like a beefcake here.

Judging by records, he does seem to defy the model of the Roman man of the time. An attractive man skilled in Greek, a writer and reader of satirical and romantic poetry, an inspiring speaker whose speeches before the Senate were clever enough to have come from the lips of a teacher of oration...and by night, he slept in a bed packed with roses and beautiful women. Despite his many indiscretions, he had three children with his wife. Aelius once said, "the wife is an object of respect, not of pleasure," but he apparently managed to lead a stable domestic life. At any rate, you can see how he managed to rub his fellow men the wrong way, given the icon of the macho Roman man at the time.

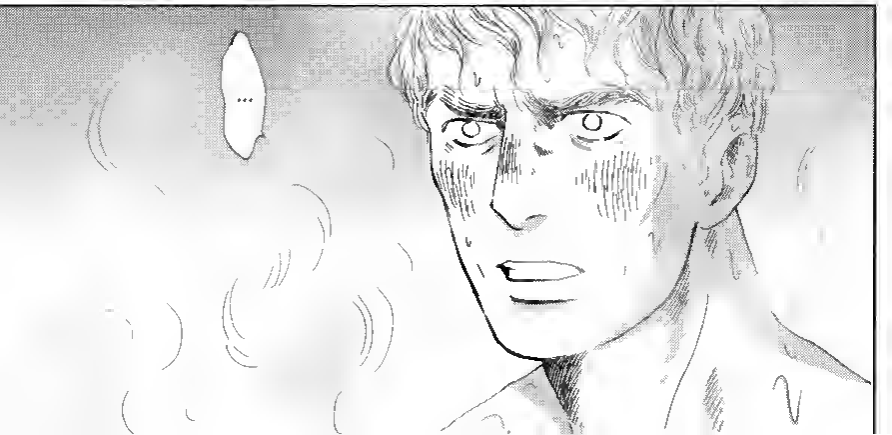
Aelius Caesar suffered from a disease that was most likely tuberculosis, and upon his return from Pannonia, he died at the young age of thirty in a hot spring villa. (Most Roman elites and nobles of the time met their end in such places.) His empty seat at the head of Rome was eventually filled years later by his son, Lucius.

Aelius Caesar is nothing but a lecherous clown in my manga, but he is still one of my favorites. I hope to one day have the chance to draw him again in a deeper and more entertaining way.

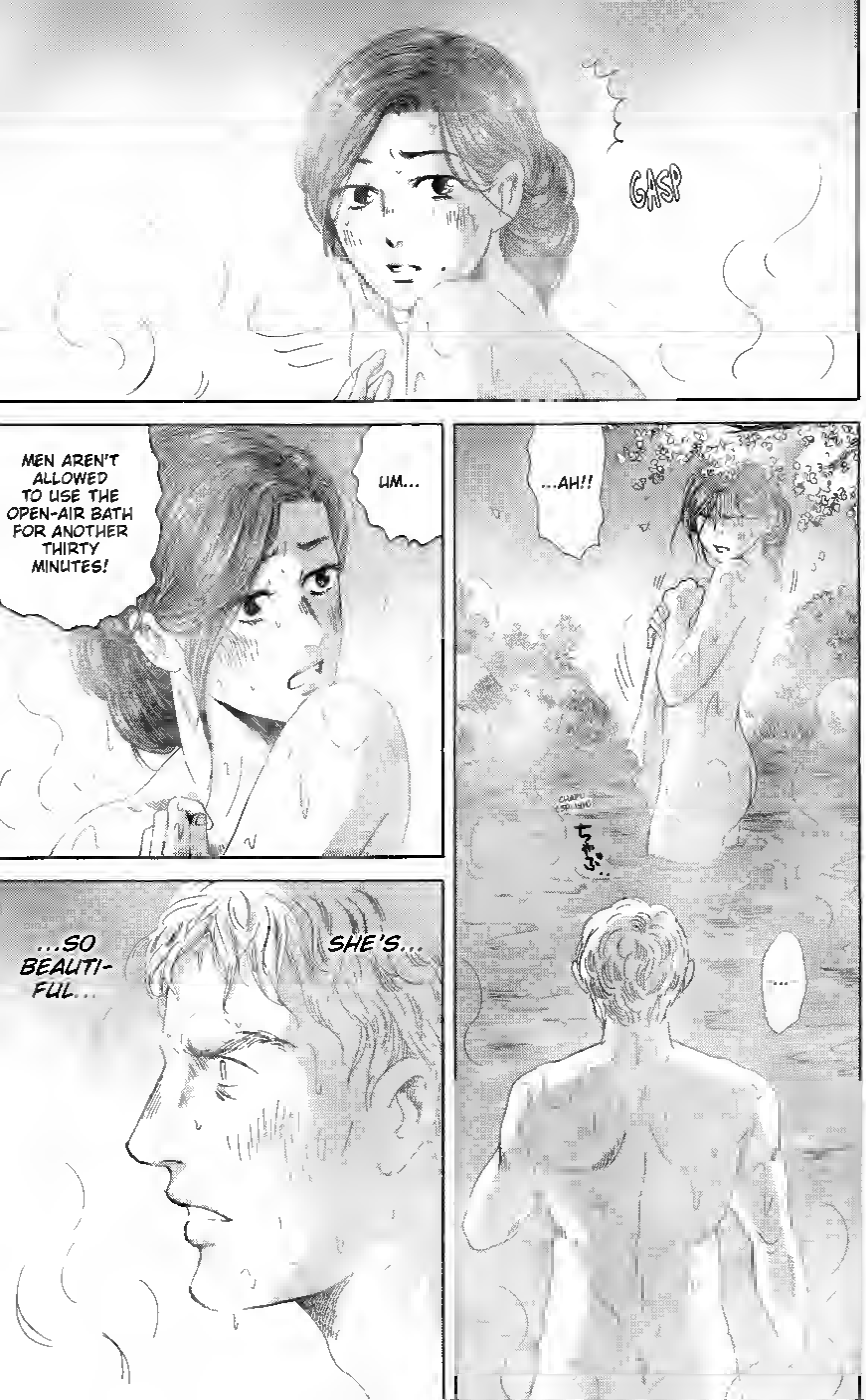


Aelius Caesar's son, Lucius Verus. My kind of guy.

Chapter 19



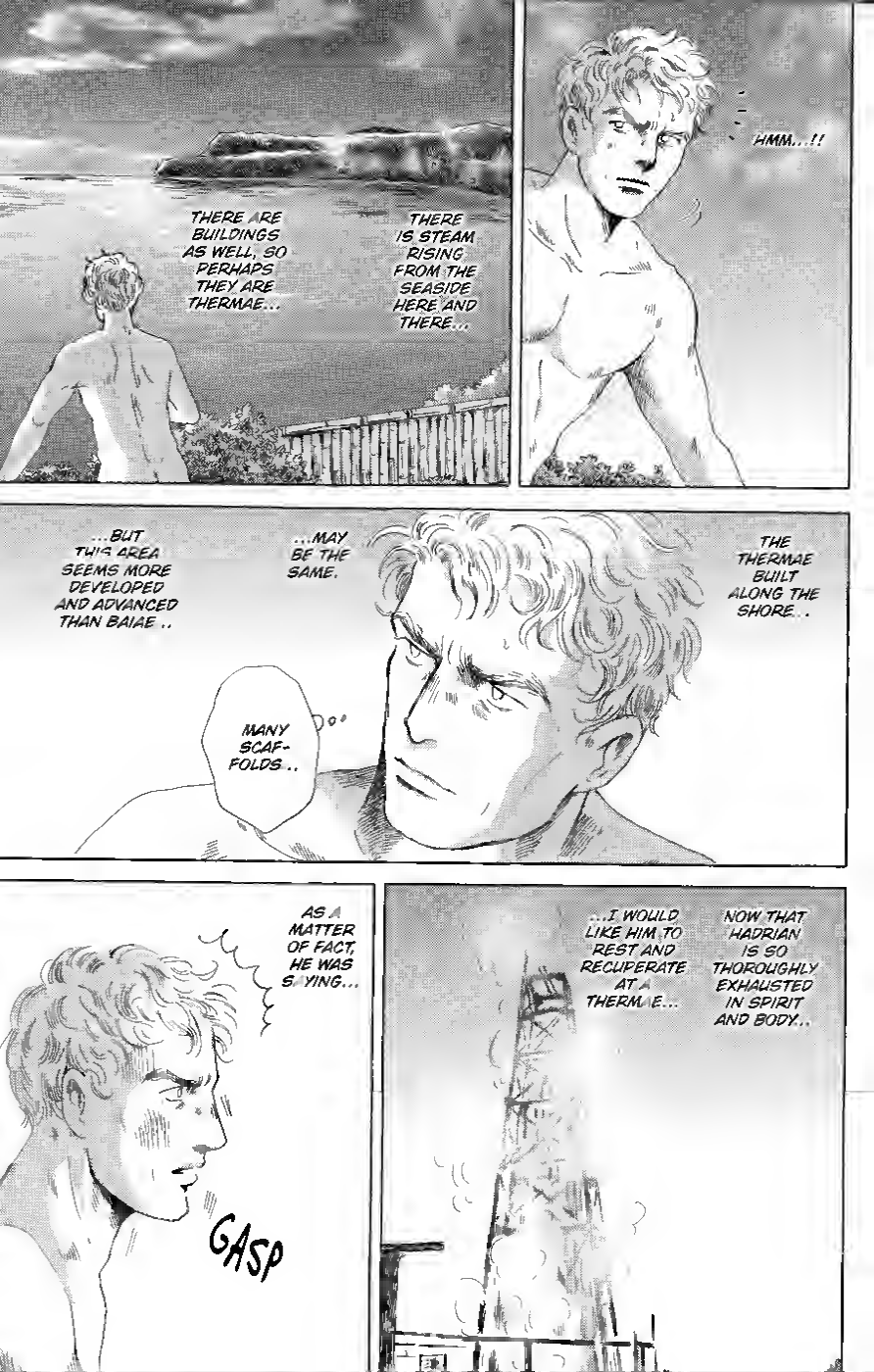
WH... WHAT IS THIS?
.....
DIANA, GODDESS OF THE MOON...
...BATHING BEFORE MY EYES!?
THIS CANNOT BE...
...
JABU GOUSHO
じゃぶ...


GASP
MEN AREN'T ALLOWED TO USE THE OPEN-AIR BATH FOR ANOTHER THIRTY MINUTES!
UM...
...AH!!
CHAPU
ちゃぷ...
...
...SO BEAUTI-FUL...
SHE'S...

ARE YOU IN THERE, SATSUKI-CHAN? GRANDPA'S ON THE PHONE!!
GALA (CLANG)
<DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?>
...ENGLISH, MAYBE?
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!!
BASHA (SPLASH)
ばしゃ
BASHA
ばしゃ
GRANDPA, YOU SAID!?
OH! COMING!
...
GOSO...GO (WHISK)
ゴソゴソ

I SMELL THE SALT TIDE..
...MM!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN
...SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FLAT-FACE IN MY TRAVELS..
!.....
...THE SOUND OF THE WAVES...
ZAZAN (SOUND)
OHH...
...
.....IS THE OCEAN NEARBY .....!?
ZAZAN (SOUND)

IS THIS...
...THE COAST OF BAIAE!?
NO, IT IS NOT... THE LAND AND SEA ARE MUCH THE SAME...
...BUT THIS IS THE LAND OF THE FLAT-FACES...


THERE ARE BUILDINGS AS WELL, SO PERHAPS THEY ARE THERMAE...
THERE IS STEAM RISING FROM THE SEASIDE HERE AND THERE...
HMM...!!
...BUT THIS AREA SEEMS MORE DEVELOPED AND ADVANCED THAN BAIAE..
...MAY BE THE SAME.
THE THERMAE BUILT ALONG THE SHORE..
MANY SCAF-FOLDS..
AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE WAS SAYING...
GASP
...I WOULD LIKE HIM TO REST AND RECUPERATE AT A THERMAE...
NOW THAT HADRIAN IS SO THOROUGHLY EXHAUSTED IN SPIRIT AND BODY..

THE EMPEROR WAS TELLING ME SOME-THING VERY IMPORTANT!!
OH NO! I CANNOT STAND AROUND HERE!!
I JUST GO BACK UNDER THE WATER, RIGHT...?
...
.....HOW DO I RETURN...?
I MUST RETURN TO ROME AT ONCE!!
HOW INCREDIBLY RUDE OF ME, TO ABANDON HIM IN HIS TIME OF NEED...!!
HMPH!

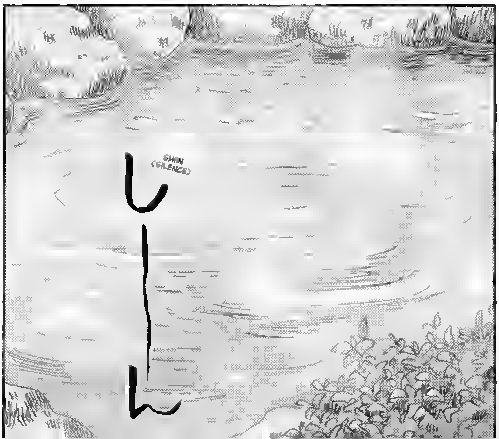
...I AM CURIOUS AS TO WHAT THOSE STEAMING SCAFFOLDS WERE MADE OF..I WISH I HAD SEEN THEM UP CLOSE...
BOKO
BOKO
BUT STILL...
...
BOKO (BLUB)
...BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO FOCUS ON THAT!
AND IT IS A SHAME THAT I WILL NEVER SEE THAT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AGAIN...
BOKO
...ALL RIGHT, THAT SHOULD DO IT!!
GUKO (BLUB)
TIME TO EMERGE!!
I MUST TELL HIM I ACCEPT HIS REQUEST!!
I MUST RETURN AND ANSWER HIS HIGHNESS'S WISHES.
IT IS A CRUCIAL TASK THAT AFFECTS THE FATE OF ROME...
BWAAH!
ZAPA (SPLASH)

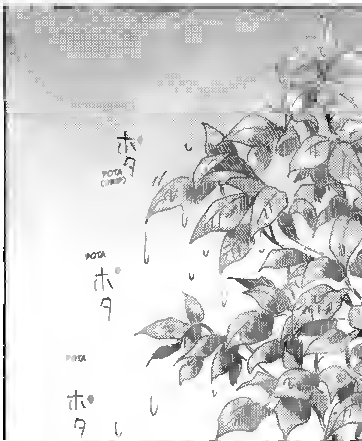
HUFF
HUFF
I'VE PONDERED YOUR REQUEST, AND...
FORGIVE ME FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING!!
...HUH...?
HUFF..
I...
...I'M STILL HERE!!

HUFF
HUFF
.....
I SEE... PERHAPS THE WAY I ENTERED THE WATER LACKED FEROCITY..
...
HUFF...
I MUST JUMP INTO THE WATER IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PERHAPS IF I DO IT MORE ABRUPTLY, LIKE ALWAYS...
BASHA (SPLASH)
JUST HAVE PATIENCE!!
I AM COMING, IMPERATOR.
SUU (SPIFF)

PYOOON (BOING)
ぴょーん

だっぱーん


SHIIN (SILENCE)
しーん

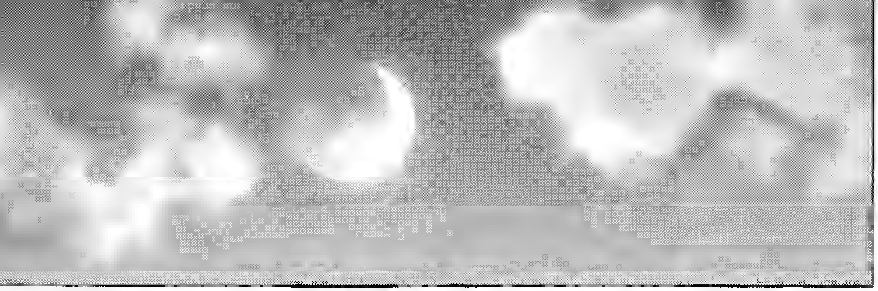

POTA (DRIP)
ポタ
POTA
ポタ
POTA
ポタ

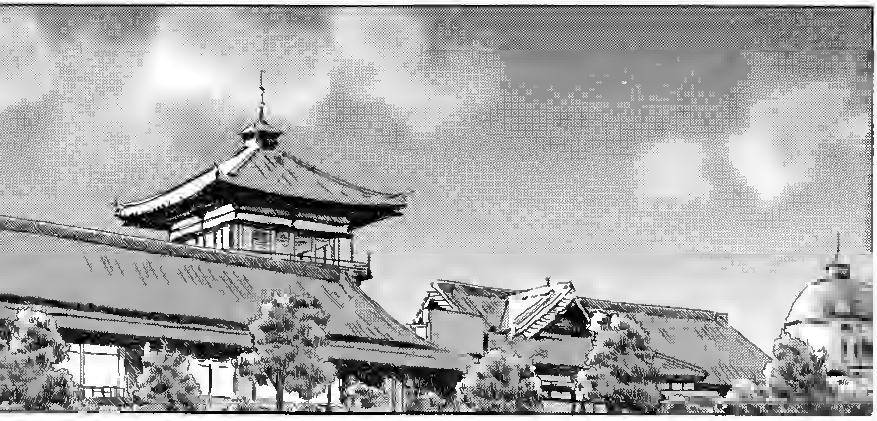
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
BASHAA (SPRAY)
バッシャア
PWOOFH!!
HUH...!?
GARA (CLINK)
ガラ
...
BASHAA
バシャー
WHUZZAT SOUND?
...HMM?
PETA (PLAT)
ペた
ペた
...IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD~!
KILLIN' ALL THE CROWS...

WHAT ABOUT THIS!?
FWOO!
HAAH!!
ANOTHER TWIST!!
TRY A FLIP!!
FROM BEHIND!!
HEYAH!!
AND A STRETCH!!
HMPF!

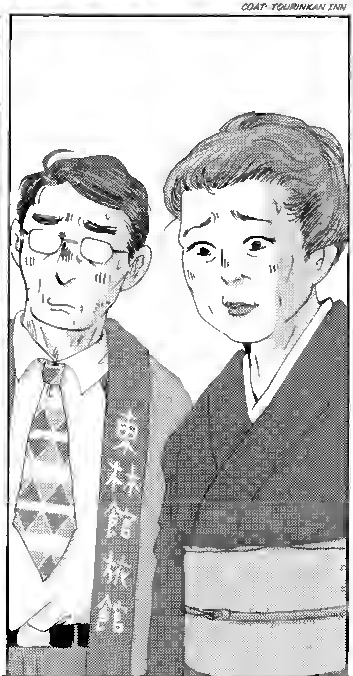
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING ANY-MORE!
とっぱ〜〜ん
TOPPAN (SPLASH)
ブク
ブク
ブク
BUKU (BUBBLES)
BUKU
BUKU
GBL ARG H!
GURGLE (DROWNING)

HUFF
KOFF
KOFF
HUFF
HUFF
KOFF
HUFF
.....
HUFF
KOFF
...WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'!?
BATABA CTHWASH!
AHH! HE FELL IN!!





COAT: YOUJINKAN 1930



WHEN I FIRST SEEN HIM, HE WAS JUMPIN' IN THE BATH, OVER AN' OVER.
NOPE...
AND HE WAS PASSED OUT WHEN YOU FOUND HIM?
HE WAS GLARIN' AND PAINED. THIS WASN'T NO GAME TO 'IM ..
BUT HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HE WAS HAVIN' NO FUN...
HUFF HUFF
HUFF
YOU KNOW THESE FOREIGNERS. THEY JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FROLIC AND PLAY IN THE BATH..
OH DEAR..
A NEW KIND O' PERVERT, Y'THINK...!?
IN SUCH A SHALLOW BATH...?
WAS HE TRYING TO KILL HIM-SELF...?
GOOD POINT...

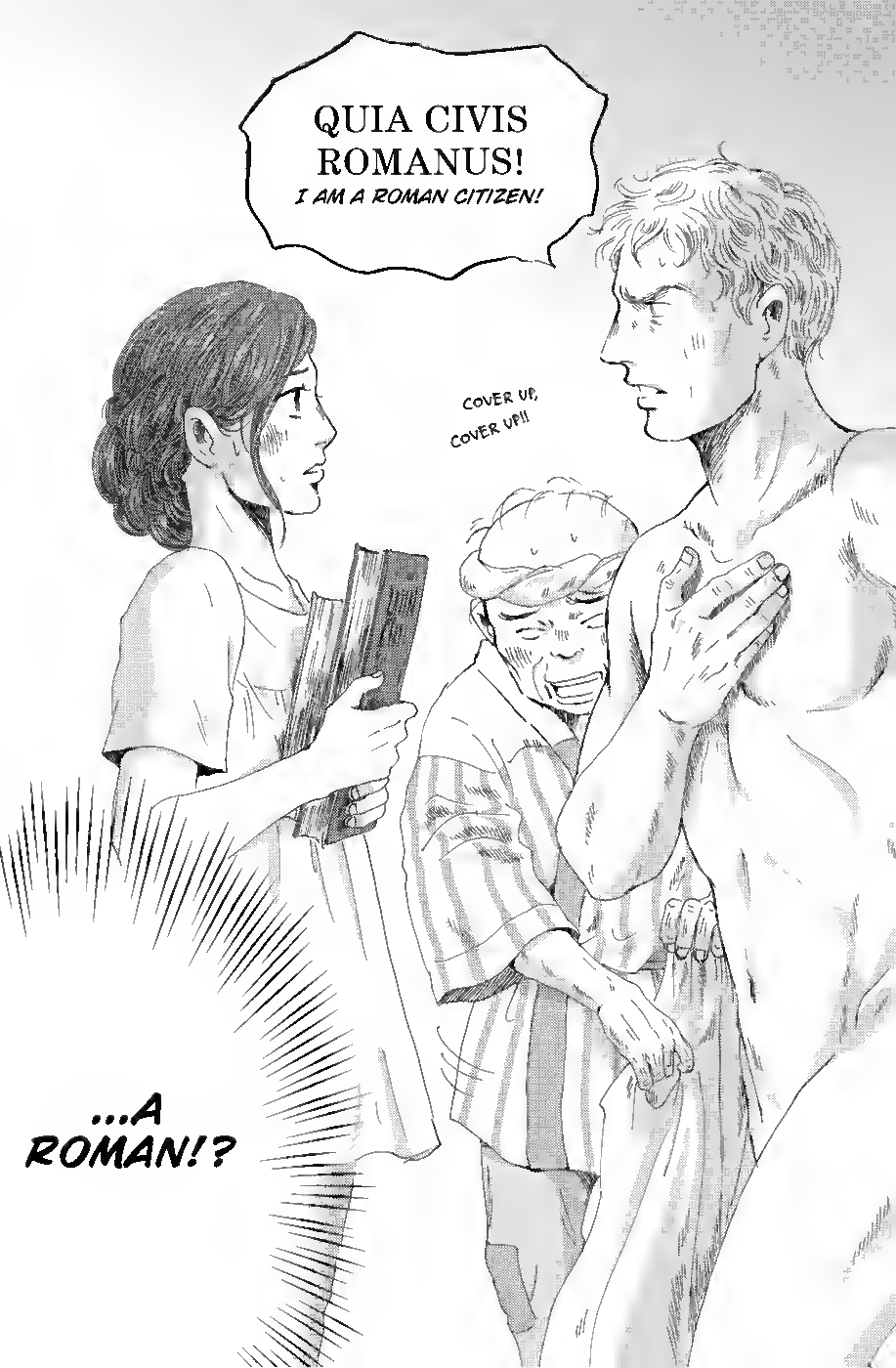
NGH...
HUH?
COULD HE BE FROM ONOYA HOTEL DOWN THE STREET...?
AND THE DAYTIME VISITORS HAVE TO BE OUT BY THREE O'CLOCK...
WELL, HE'S NOT IN THE REGISTER, SO HE'S NOT ONE OF THE GUESTS...
...AH!
HE'S COMIN' TO!
PACH
はち...
.....
...
.....

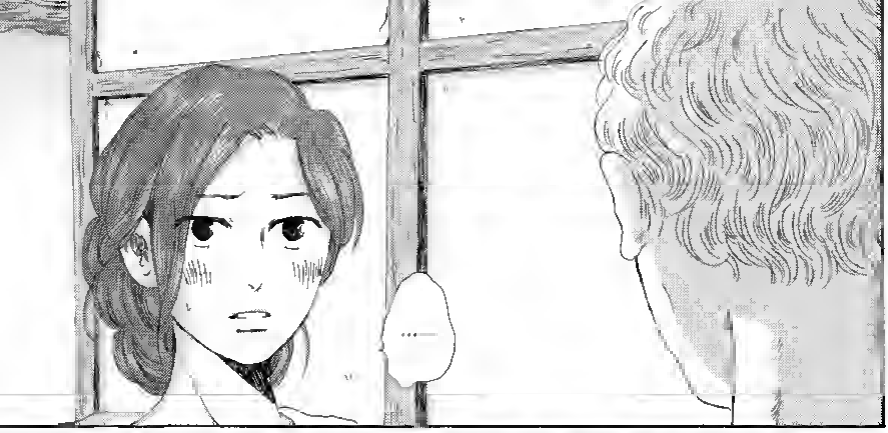
!!
がばっ
.....
CURSES...
...
HE'S ON HIS FEET!!
IT DID NOT WORK...
.....

UBI?
WHERE?
HE'S TRYING TO ASK US SOMETHING...
UBI THERMAE SUNT?
WHERE IS THE BATH?
...HWUH?
USELESS BUFFOONS.
...
BUT I BET SATSUKI-CHAN WOULD KNOW!!
...
I DON'T KNOW, OKAMI-SAN!!
WH-WHAT LANGUAGE IS HE SPEAKING, SHIN-CHAN?
WHAT IF HE GOES TO JUMP IN THE BATH AGAIN!?
RAHH
RAHH
RAHH
IT'S NOT WORTH IT, SIR!
S-SIR!!
すい
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

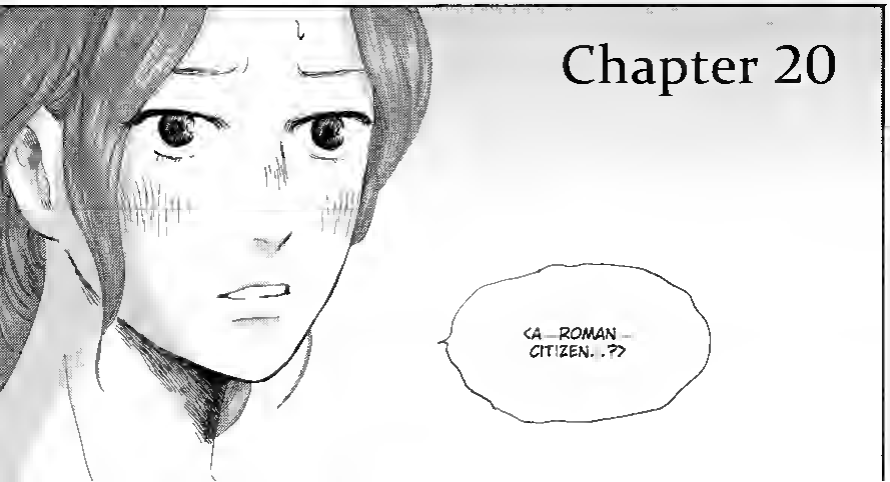
!?
NE ME TETIGERIS!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
ME STATIM ROMAM REDIRE OPORTET!
I MUST RETURN TO ROME!
PRINCEPS ME OPPERTUR!
HIS HIGHNESS IS AWAITING ME!
SINE ME!
LET ME GO!
LOOK, FRIEND, JUST SETTLE DOWN!
PLEASE! WE DON'T WANT ANY PROBLEMS, SIR!
...
<DIANA...!!>
IS THAT... LATIN!?
THE MAN FROM THE BATH?

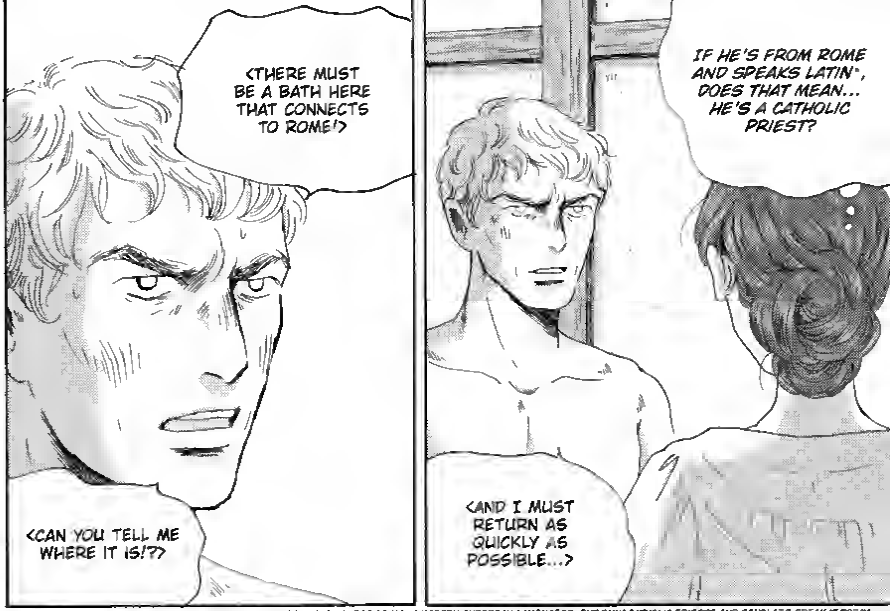
HUFF
HUFF
...
CAN YOU TELL WHAT HE'S SAYING?
YOU CAN SPEAK ENGLISH AND STUFF, RIGHT!?
OH, SATSUKI-CHAN! PERFECT TIMING!
SINE ME!
LET ME GO!
SINE MEGRAM!
LET ME DROWN!
"WHY" ...!?
.....
QUA ES VOS EX??
WHERE ARE YOU FROM??
CUR LATINE LOQUITRU?
WHY DO YOU SPEAK LATIN?


QUIA CIVIS ROMANUS!
I AM A ROMAN CITIZEN!
COVER UP, COVER UP!!
...A ROMAN!?

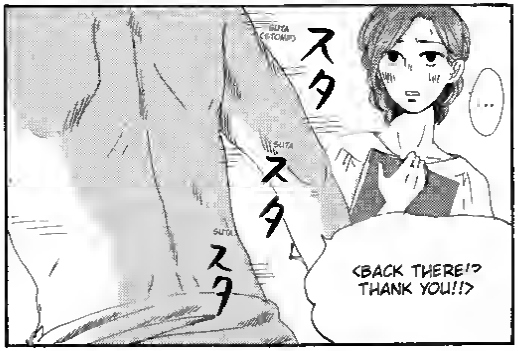


Chapter 20





*LATIN WAS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF ANCIENT ROME. IT IS THE SOURCE OF MANY MODERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES. BUT ONLY CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND SCHOLARS SPEAK IT TODAY.



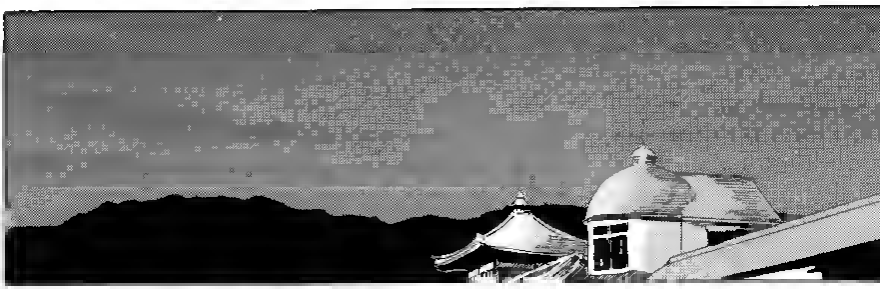
HE STOPPED...
AH!
.....
ピタ
KUBO CUPID
くる
..
...
<F...FLAT-FACE...?>
<BUT YOUR PRONUNCIATION LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED...>
<YOU ARE...>
<...THE FIRST FLAT-FACE I'VE MET WHO SPEAKS LATIN.>

WHAT'S GOING ON!?
<HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO ROME?>
<...JUST ONCE .>
<I SEE! SO YOU NOT ONLY KNOW OUR LANGUAGE, BUT YOU HAVE VISITED ROME...THAT IS WONDERFUL!>
だっ
DA CRASH
<WAIT!!>
AH, HEY..
KURU CRUNCH
<.....>
<WHAT?>
<I'M SORRY>
<I'M SORRY>
<I'M SORRY

<WHAT IS THAT?>
<...ITALIAN?>
<...ARE YOU ITALIAN?>
<IF YOU CAME FROM ROME, THEN...>
* ITALY WAS UNITED IN 1861. UNTIL THEN, THE STATE OF ITALY DID NOT EXIST.
<VATICANUM.....?>
...
<THE MONS VATICANUM.....?>
<IF YOU ARE FLUENT IN ROMAN...>
* "VATICAN HILL." IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME THE SITE OF THE VATICAN.
<IT IS A LONELY PLACE, THE HOME OF NERO'S CIRCUS AND A CEMETERY...>
MONS VATICANVM
<...DOES THAT MEAN YOU ARE A PRIEST OF THE VATICAN?>

IS HE SPEAKING OF THE STATE OF ROME BEFORE THE VATIC. N WAS BUILT? HOW...!?
ドキ
ドキ
.....
<I LIVE NOT IN VATICANUM, BUT IN CAMPUS FLAMINIUS.>
...
<I DO NOT KNOW THIS "ITALIAN" YOU SPEAK OF...>
<MY FATHER WAS A LATIN MAN OF THRACE.>
<MY MOTHER WAS AN ETRURIAN OF SATURNIA.>
<I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MYSELF...>
<AND I AM AN ARCHITECT OF BATHS! I BUILD THERMAE ALL AROUND THE EMPIRE.>
HUH!?
<IN FACT, I WAS HAVING A VERY IMPORTANT CONVERSATION WITH EMPEROR HADRIAN WHEN I CAME HERE...>

WASHI (EAGLE)
GUTA (SHIRT)
GUTA
GUTA
.....
NO, SATSUKI-CHAN! DON'T LET HIM GO!!
YOU HAVE TO STOP HIM!!
UMM!
<PLEASE...>
<I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU A LITTLE LONGER!>
<TALK...!?>
<PLEASE!!>
<..... .....>



とくとく
TOKUTOKU

…
<THIS IS BARLEY TEA. HAVE YOU HAD IT?>
<BARLEY?>

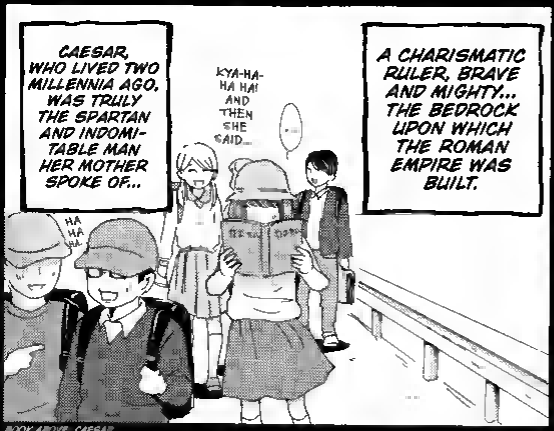
IT'S SO STRANGE. MY HEART WON'T STOP RACING...
どくん
どくん
FINALLY THERE'S SOMEONE I CAN TALK WITH ABOUT ANCIENT ROME, EVEN IF HE IS CRAZY...

OH GOOD... SATSUKI-CHAN SEEMS TO HAVE TALKED SOME SENSE INTO HIM...
THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' THAT GIRL CAN'T DO!!

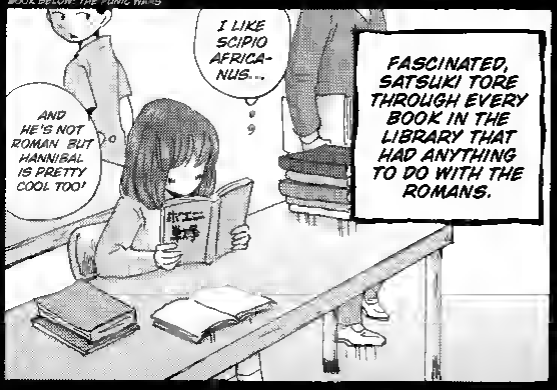
〈MAKE IT QUICK. I'M IN A HURRY!!〉
〈ALL RIGHT, I'LL KEEP IT SHORT.〉
〈FIRST, YOUR NAME..?
THE PRODIGY OF ITO HOT SPRINGS.
〈I AM LUCIUS QUINTUS MODESTUS.〉
THREE NAMES, IN THE ROMAN STYLE.
SATSUKI ODATE (28).
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE RESIDENT OF THIS HOT SPRING TOWN WHO DOES NOT KNOW HER NAME...
Prenomen Lucius
Nomen Quintus
Cognomen
SARA (SCRITCH)
SARA

MOMO-CHIYO.
SATSUKI'S MOTHER WAS ONCE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GEISHA IN ITO.
HOW-EVER...
MOMOCHIYO-NEESAN!
COUNTLESS MEN WERE HELD CAPTIVE BY HER INCREDIBLE BEAUTY AND REGALITY...
MOMO-CHIYO-SAMA!
...WHEN HER DAUGHTER SATSUKI WAS ONLY TEN YEARS OLD...
...MOMOCHIYO WAS WRACKED BY AN INCURABLE AFFLICTION...

...MOMOCHIYO, SENSING HER IMMINENT END...
...LEFT A FINAL MESSAGE WITH HER PRECIOUS DAUGHTER.
IF YOU WANT TO LEAD A HAPPY LIFE, SATSUKI, YOU MUSN'T CHOOSE THE WRONG MAN.
...
CHOOSE A MAN WHO IS SPARTAN AND INDOMITABLE. UNDERSTAND?
SOON, MOMOCHIYO HAD DRAWN HER LAST BREATH, LEAVING HER YOUNG DAUGHTER BEHIND.
MOM-MY!!
SATSUKI SWORE TO UPHOLD HER MOTHER'S FINAL MESSAGE.
WHAT DOES SPARTIN AND INDOMINIBAL MEAN, MOMMY?
WITHOUT A FATHER, SATSUKI WAS RAISED BY HER GRAND-FATHER.
Spartan
Indomitable
SATSUKI DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT HER MOTHER HAD MEANT...

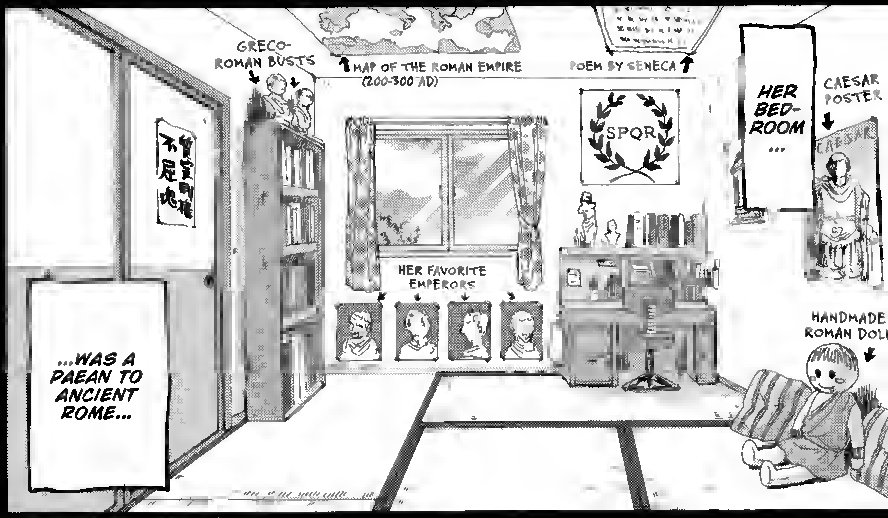

CAESAR, WHO LIVED TWO MILLENNIA AGO, WAS TRULY THE SPARTAN AND INDOMI-TABLE MAN HER MOTHER SPOKE OF...
KYA-HA-HA HA! AND THEN SHE SAID...
...
HA HA HA...
A CHARISMATIC RULER, BRAVE AND MIGHTY... THE BEDROCK UPON WHICH THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS BUILT.

BOOK ABOVE: CAESAR
BOOK BELOW: THE PUNIC WARS

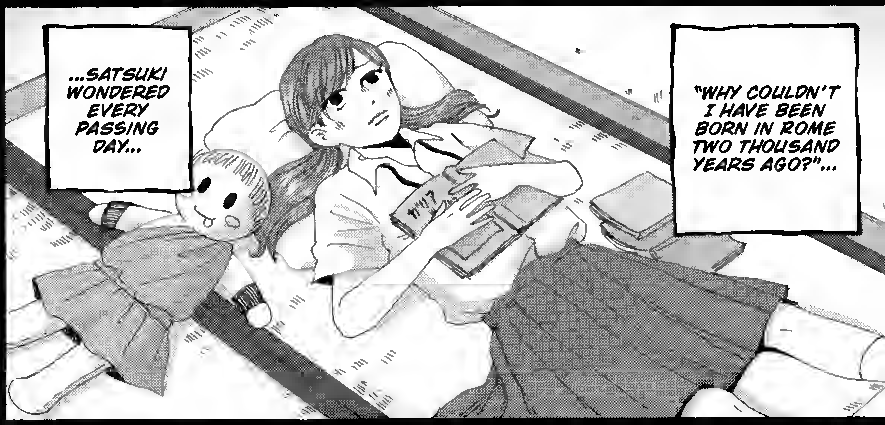

I LIKE SCIPIO AFRICA-NUS...
AND HE'S NOT ROMAN BUT HANNIBAL IS PRETTY COOL TOO!
FASCINATED, SATSUKI TORE THROUGH EVERY BOOK IN THE LIBRARY THAT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ROMANS.

SHE HUNG A HANDMADE FELT CAESAR DOLL FROM HER BACK-PACK...
SHE PUT MAPS AND ROMAN BUSTS IN HER CLEAR FILE FOLDERS...
I LOVE THEM!♡
PICTURE: MAP OF ROMAN EMPIRE
"SENATUS POPULUSQUE ROMANUS."*
ODATE-SAN... WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
ESS, PEE, CUE...?
SPQR
IN HOME EC, SHE CRAFTED A "SENATE AND PEOPLE OF ROME" APRON.
*SPQR: LATIN FOR "SENATE AND THE PEOPLE OF ROME." MUCH LIKE THE GREETING, "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN."
I LIKE CAESAR! ♡
MINE IS KIMU-TAKU!♡
SATSUKI-CHAN, WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE MEMBER OF SMAP?
ECCENTRIC LITTLE SATSUKI...
...HAD TROUBLE MAKING FRIENDS...

BOOK: THE HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE I — EDWARD GIBBON

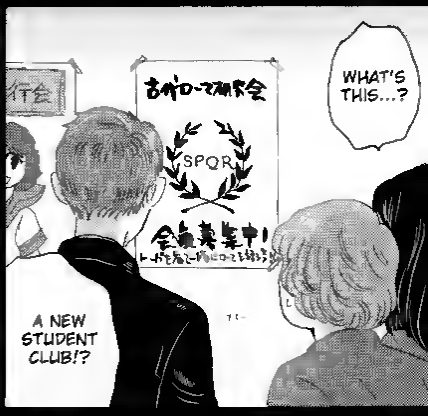


POSTER ON DOOR: SPARTAN AND INDOMITABLE WILL



BOOK: GALLIA

...BUT SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO DRAW STARES ON THE STREET.
SHE STILL COULDN'T MAKE FRIENDS...
CIÒ CHE STA NEL CUORE DEL SOBRIO.
AT THIS POINT, SHE STARTED LEARNING ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN IN ORDER TO READ DOCUMENTS ON THE ROMANS IN THEIR ORIGINAL LANGUAGES.
La Vie quotidienne à Rome
CARCOPINO
SHE WAS TOP OF THE CLASS AT HER PREP HIGH SCHOOL.
WORLD HISTORY PROF
HMM? WHAT IS IT?
BUT THIS WASN'T ENOUGH FOR SATSUKI.
SENSEI, I HAVE A QUESTION...
Vero?!
Latine loqui non est difficilius!
LATINE
FINALLY, SHE BEGAN LEARNING LATIN
ITALIAN CULTURE CENTER'S LATIN COURSE



POSTER: ANCIENT ROME CLUB MEMBERS WANTED! LET'S WEAR TOGAS AND TALK ABOUT ROME!

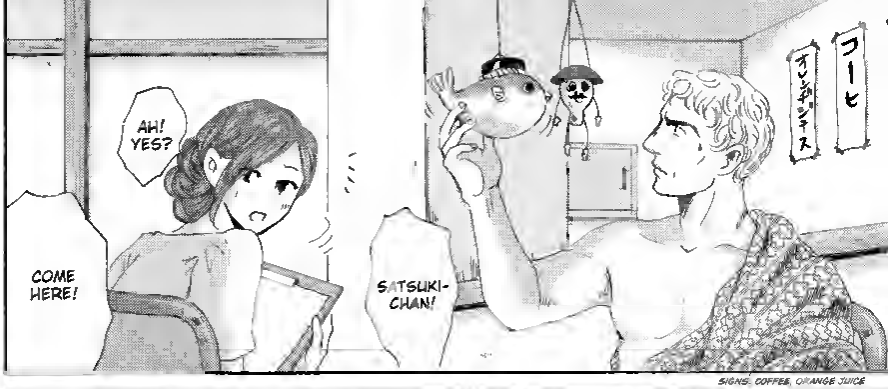
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE, SATSUKI MET SOMEONE WHO SHARED HER INTERESTS.
REALLY!?
IT WAS YOUJI SHIMADA, THE MOST POPULAR BOY IN THE CLASS.
I'VE ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST IN ANCIENT ROME...
BUT DESPITE NOT CARING, HE DID WHATEVER HE COULD TO DRAW SATSUKI'S INTEREST...
SATSUKI'S FAVORITE HAIRSTYLE
BUT IN TRUTH, SHIMADA WAS ONLY AFTER SATSUKI, AND DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE ROMANS IN THE LEAST...
...UNTIL FINALLY, HE MANAGED TO SCORE A DATE.
HUH!?
WHY DON'T WE CONVERSE IN LATIN?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
DON'T CARRY THAT AROUND, BRUTUS!
I WENT TO THE THEATER, BUT CAESAR WASN'T THERE.
HA HA HA!
AND I MEAN WHATEVER HE COULD...
TRAINING IN ROMAN COMEDY
NO GOOD! START OVER!

SHIMADA WAS ENERGIZED BY HIS LONG-AWAITED DATE WITH THE LOVELY SATSUKI.
LET'S TAKE PICTURES!!
SUPER SHOT
"FORGET THAT"...?
HYA HA HA
LET'S HAVE ICE CREAM!!
LET'S RIDE THE FERRIS WHEEL!
FORGET THAT! LET'S RIDE THE BOATS!!
!!
SATSUKI-CHAN!
...SHIMADA WENT IN FOR THE KISS.
BUT THEN, AS HE WALKED HER HOME...
TODAY WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?
WEAKLING...?
...HUH?
WEAK-LING!!
!?
W-WEAK-LING.

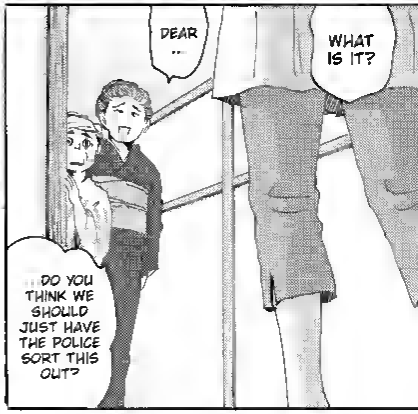
WAIT, SATSUKI-CHAN! WHAT DID I DO THAT MAKES ME SCUM!?
NO!
...WENT DOWN IN FLAMES...
SHIMA-DA...
BEGONE SCUM...
SOMETIMES I THINK SHE'S SO SMART, IT MAKES HER KIND OF CRAZY!
NO WAY, REALLY!?
DID YOU HEAR? ODATE-SAN TURNED DOWN SHIMADA-SENPAI!
SATSUKI WAS MORE ALONE THAN EVER.
...
AS A PROFESSOR, I AM NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY THIS, BUT...
...AND SHE MAJORED IN ARCHAE-OLOGY AT TOKYO UNIVERSITY BEFORE HEADING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL.
AFTER THAT, THE RUMORS ABOUT SATSUKI DRIED UP...

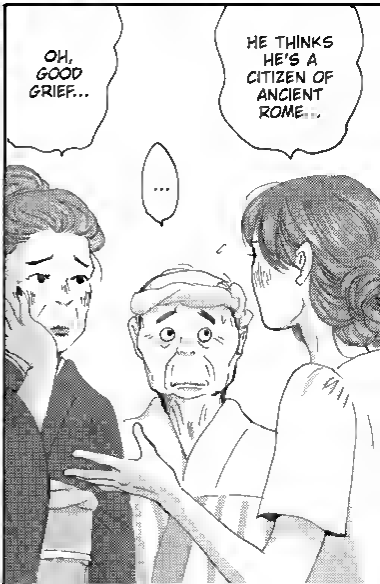
...LAMENTED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO TEACH HER.
YOUR DISSERTATION ALREADY CONTAINS MORE THAN THE TEN BOOKS I'VE WRITTEN...
HUH!?
HER PROFESSORS...
...STAYING HERE WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!
...AND GOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A DIG OUTSIDE OF ROME.
AFTER THAT, SHE JOINED A JOINT EXPEDITION WITH OXFORD UNIVERSITY...
...MUCH TO THE CONSTERNATION OF HER PROFESSOR.
PROFESSOR
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE SATISFIED UNTIL YOU'VE DUG UP THE ENTIRE EMPIRE!
SHE DUG HERE AND THERE, FORSAKING FOOD AND WATER...

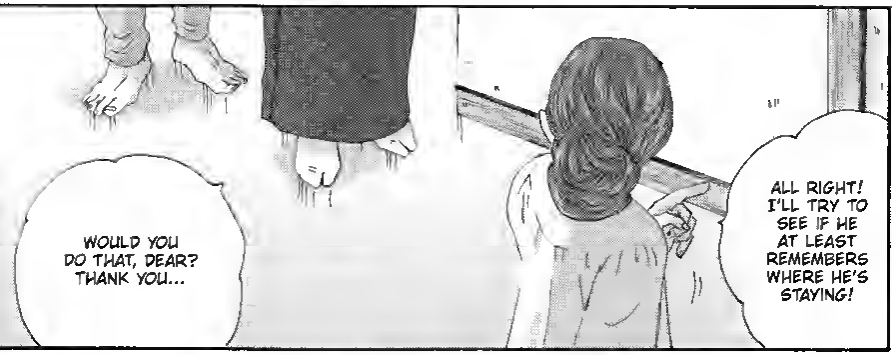
I FEEL LIKE IF I KEEP ON DIGGING...
I MIGHT DIG UP A REAL LIVE ROMAN SOMEDAY...
HA HA HA...
PRETTY SILLY, ISN'T IT?
THIS WAS SATSUKI ODATE IN A NUTSHELL...
<.....>
<FORGIVE ME. SO WHAT DID EMPEROR HADRIAN SAY...?>
<I JUST TOLD YOU THAT!>
<I'M SORRY, I'M ALMOST DONE...>
<I CANNOT STAND HERE AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ALL DAY!!>
<LET ME RETURN TO ROME!>
THAT FOREIGN FELLOW SEEMS TO BE GETTING ANGRIER...
SATSUKI-CHAN DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP...



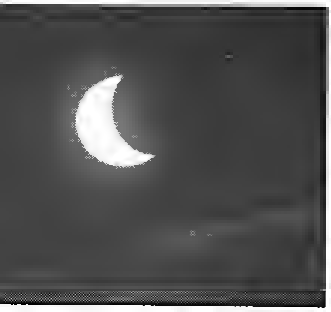
SIGNS: COFFEE, ORANGE JUICE





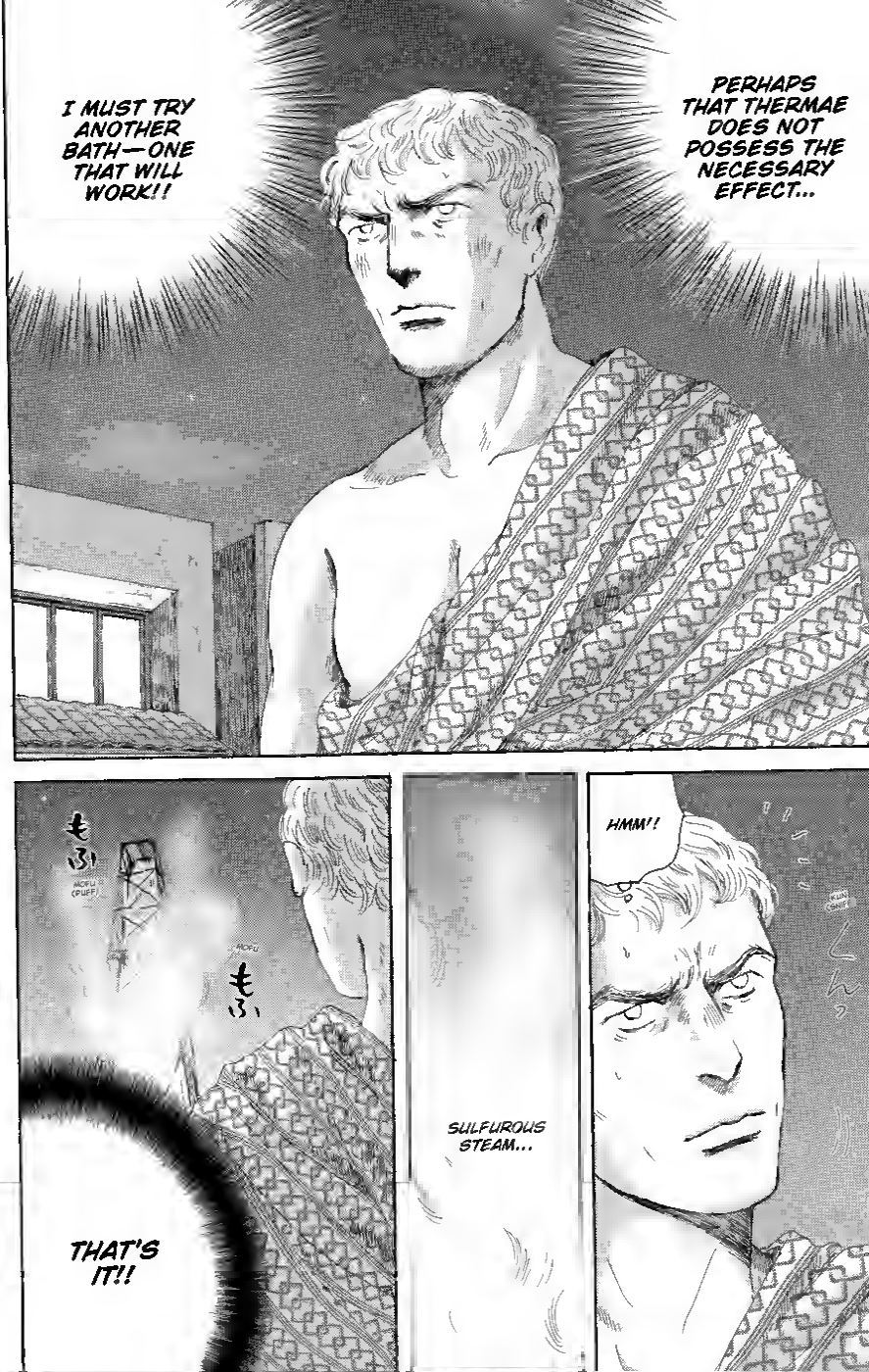

ALL RIGHT! I'LL TRY TO SEE IF HE AT LEAST REMEMBERS WHERE HE'S STAYING!
WOULD YOU DO THAT, DEAR? THANK YOU...

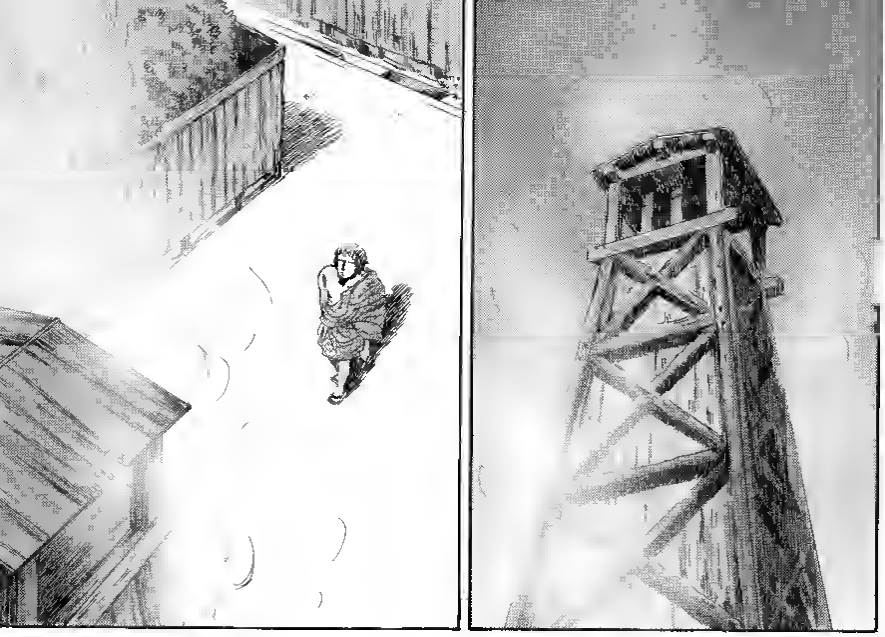
<SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT...>
<.....>

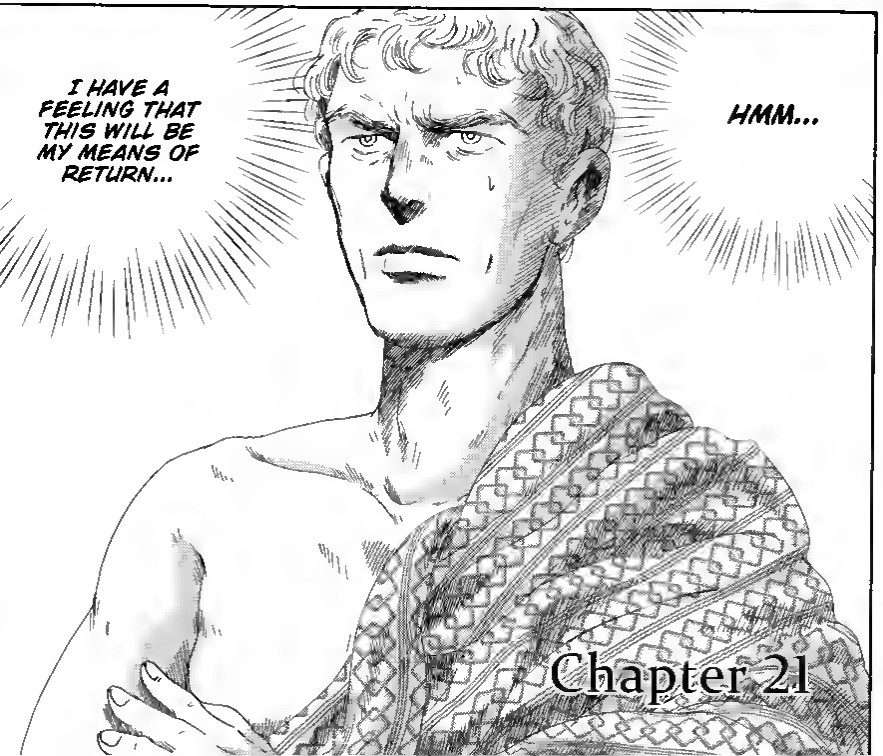


カラッ
KARA (CLACK)
コロッ
KORO (CLICK)
カラ
KARA

HUH...?
...WHERE DID HE GO...!?


I MUST TRY ANOTHER BATH—ONE THAT WILL WORK!!
PERHAPS THAT THERMAE DOES NOT POSSESS THE NECESSARY EFFECT...
MOFU (PUFF)
MOFU
THAT'S IT!!
SULFUROUS STEAM...
HMM'!
KUN (SNIFF)





Chapter 21

もう
(MOU)
(SIGH)
もう
MOU
立入り禁止
キケン
.....
SIGH: DANGER — DO NOT ENTER.
THE STEAM IS INCREDIBLY HOT HERE. THERE MUST BE A SPOUT OF NATURAL HOT WATER WITHIN...
I CANNOT GET PAST THIS FENCE...
HMM...
...
EVEN IF THERE WERE NOT A FENCE BARRING MY WAY, IT MIGHT BE TOO HOT FOR BATHING, IN ANY CASE...
.....

IT LOOKS PRIMITIVE, BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT IS THE PRODUCT OF THE FLAT-FACES' VAST KNOWLEDGE OF THE BATH...
THIS APPARATUS MAKES ME QUITE CURIOUS ..
SIGN: NATURAL SPRING WELL
...BUT I CANNOT READ THIS...
.....
DEPENDING ON ITS BENEFITS, THIS COULD BE USEFUL IN ROME... I WANT TO SEE ITS CONSTRUCTION...
GASP

AND THAT MEANS FINDING THE THERMAE THAT WILL TAKE ME THERE!!
カラン
コロ?
THIS IS NOT WHAT I OUGHT TO BE DOING!!
I MUST RETURN TO ROME AT ONCE!!
ザザ~
SIGN: ITO HOT SPRINGS PARK HOKA HOKA LAND
OH MY GOD, SHIN-CHAN!
なで
なで
WHAT IS WITH YOU HAVING TO HAVE YOUR HANDS ALL OVER MY BUTT!?
伊藤温泉公園
ほかほかランド

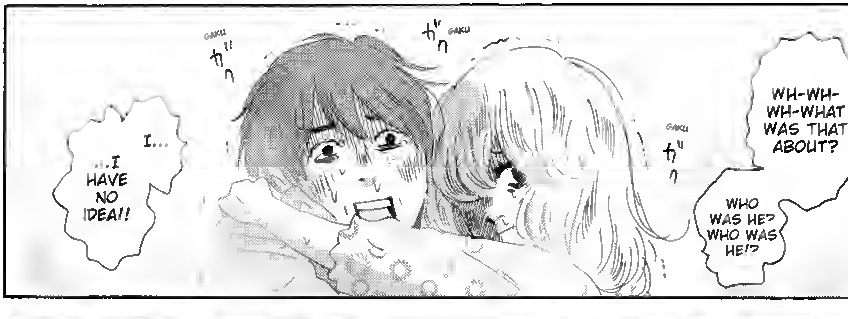
I JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT, RIE!!
BUT NOT HEEERE!
C'MON, NOBODY'S WATCHING!
いっちゃ
いっちゃ
いっちゃ
I JUST CAN'T WAIT, BABE...
OOOH! A FOOT BATH!★
SIGN: FOOT BATH
OH, I LOVE FOOT BATHS!♡
KYA HA HA HA
JUST LIKE AN OLD GRAND-MA.
HA HA HA...
PHEW!
YAY!♡ LET'S TRY IT!♡
WHOA, WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED TO SEE ONE HERE...
HUH...?

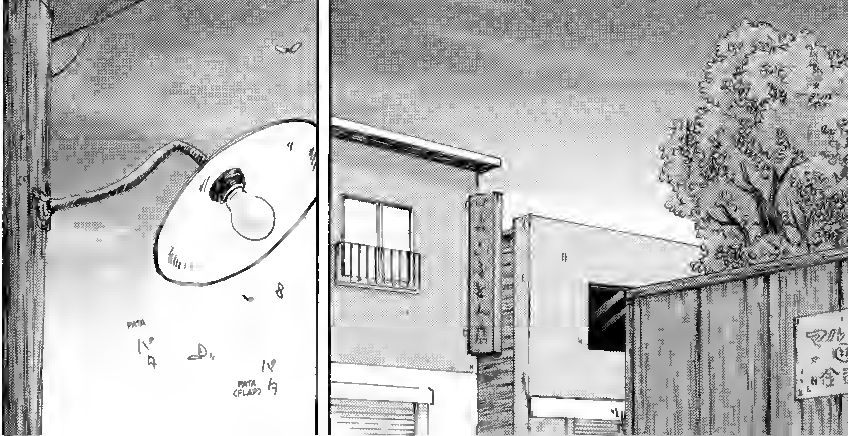
!!
WHA
ー!?
バシャッ!!
SASHA (SPLASH)

ぎろ
GIRO (GLARE)

YAAH!
!!
ザパー
ZAPA SPLASH
.....
ザプッ
ZAPU (GLOSH)
....!!
わし
WASHI (CRAB)

KARA (CLACK)
カラッ
コロン
KORO (CLUNK)
...
GAKU
GAKU (TREMBLE)
KYU (TEE)


GAKU
GAKU
GAKU
I...
...I HAVE NO IDEA!!
WH-WH-WH-WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
WHO WAS HE? WHO WAS HE!?


PATA
PATA (FLAP)

GARA (SLIDE)
WELL, DEAR, I'M OFF.
..HUH?
OFF TO WASH THE VEGETA-BLES!
GARA (RATTLE)
SIGN: PUBLIC WASHING FAUCET
JOBOBOBO
JOBOBOBO (MUD-BLUB)
共同洗い場

HERE WE GO.
IT'S NICE AND QUIET IN THE MORNING...
GOGO (RUSTLE)
ごそ
ごそ
じょぼぼぼぼ…
JOBOBOBO (GLUG)
KIKO (CREAK)
キコ
キコ
キコ
キコ
キコ
もそ
MOSO (ANGLE)
もそ
MOSO
もそ
MOSO
THE PICKLING ALWAYS TASTES BETTER WHEN THEY'RE WASHED AT THIS FAUCET...
ばしゃ
BASHA (SPLASH)
…
ぼっ。
BOH (EMPTY)
…?
もそ
MOSO
もそ
MOSO

じゃばばばば
JABA CHUGABO
BWAAH!!
HUFF
HUFF
KOFF
HUFF
HUFF
KOFF
KOFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...
...

じゃぱ。
JAPA (SPLASH)
ポス
PUSU (PUFF)
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
…
KONKE KONSODO OCA KAYAMINO
カラ
KARA (CLACK)
コロ
KORO (CLUNK)
KOFF
KOFF
カラ
チチチ
CHICHICHI (CHIRP)

I HOPE HE GOT BACK TO HIS HOTEL...
...
BASHA (SPLASH)
バシャ
I WONDER WHAT THE DEAL WAS WITH THAT MAN LAST NIGHT...
HUH?
WHY DID I HAVE TO SEE A MAN'S PRIVATES ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL!?
I THINK THAT GUY MIGHT HAVE BEEN CRAZY!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
YOU KNOW?
HE WAS INSANE!
SFX: GASU SASU (RUB)
.....
.....
WAS THAT A CRAZY PERSON!? GYA-HA-HA!
GYA HA HA HA!
I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD AT FIRST!
...
HIS WIENER WAS SHOWING!

IT'S HIM!!
WHERE IS HE!?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I'M GETTING CLOSER !!
HUFF
HUFF
...
I'M GOING TO TELL THE POLICE!!
PLEASE!

HAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT A PER-VERT!!
EW!
NO FREAKIN' WAY!!
SOBOBO
じょぼぼぼ
HUFF
HUFF
CHECK IT OUT!
FOUND HIM!
CYA HA HA!
OH MY GOD, HOW FREAKY! HILARIOUS!
.....
ぼぼ
<LUCIUS!!>

<IT'S YOU, DIANA...?
<WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!? GET OUT AT ONCE!!>
<I WILL NOT! I MUST RETURN TO ROME!>
<I HAVE TO BE IN THE BATH!!>
.....
<I WILL HEAR OUT YOUR STORY, BUT FIRST YOU OUGHT TO GET OUT OF THERE!!>
<BUT IF YOU KEEP DOING THIS...>
<...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND THAT WILL MAKE IT HARDER TO RETURN TO ROME!>

ZAZAAN (SFX)
ザザ…ー
GYAA (CAW)
ギャア
GYAA
ギャア
……
ZAZAA
ザザ…
<IF I CANNOT RETURN TO ROME…?
<…THEN MY LIFE AS AN ENGINEER IS OVER.>

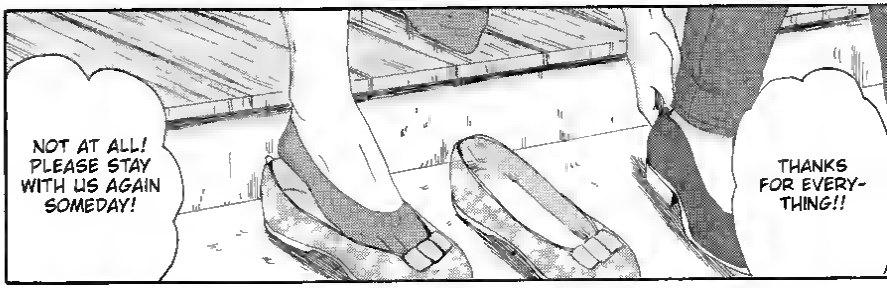
〈...ENGINEER...?〉
〈YES! I DESIGN PUBLIC BATHS IN ROME...〉
〈SOMETHING THAT WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE...〉
...
HE MUST HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED HERE BY SOME COMPANY...
〈JUST BEFORE I CAME HERE, I WAS GIVEN A GRAVELY IMPORTANT TASK BY THE EMPEROR!!〉
...
〈HE WILL HAVE LOST ALL FAITH IN ME...〉
〈AND YET, HERE I AM, UNABLE TO RETURN HOME ..〉

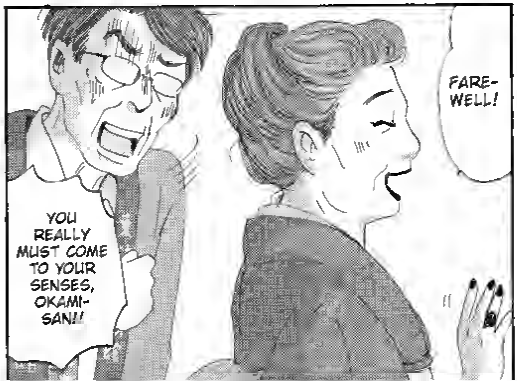
<A BOAT, THEN! I WILL COMMISSION A SHIP!!>
<THIS IS AN ISLAND. YOU CANNOT TAKE A HORSE HOME...>
GYAA (CRAWK)
ギャア
GYAA
ギャア
<IF BATHING WILL NOT SEND ME HOME, THEN I MUST BUY A HORSE AND RIDE...>
<WHAT?>
<YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY, AFTER ALL.>
<I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO BE IN ANY RUSH TO RETURN...>
<IT IS TOO EARLY TO RETURN...>
<...I SEE...>
<...AND YOU MUST DO THAT BEFORE YOU CAN RETURN...?>
<...>
<PERHAPS YOU ARE MEANT TO EXPERIENCE MANY THINGS WHILE YOU ARE HERE...>

ZATAR (FSHA)
<SO YOU ARE SAYING... THAT I MUST NOT YET RETURN TO ROME?>
<THAT IT MIGHT BE THE WILL OF THE GODS THAT KEEPS ME HERE!?>
HA HA...
<PERHAPS... I DON'T KNOW>
IT IS TRUE THAT I COULD LEARN MANY THINGS WITH HER HELP INTERPRET-ING...
<I ALWAYS COME TO THIS LAND SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING!!>
<I HAVE TAKEN NO LODGINGS...>
<INN!?>
<BY THE WAY, LUCIUS, WHAT INN ARE YOU STAYING AT?>
<...HUH?>
<I DROWN IN THE BATH, AND WHEN I COME TO AGAIN, I AM HERE!!>

<I DO NOT EVEN KNOW HOW MANY MILES IT IS TO ROME!!>
I WONDER IF HE'S IN SOME KIND OF LEGAL TROUBLE...
<...WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE AND WORK UNTIL IT IS TIME TO RETURN?>
<LUCILIUS...>
<...>
<PLUS, IT WILL KEEP THE RESIDENTS FROM BEING SUSPICIOUS OF YOU...>
<YES...>
<WORK!?>
<THEN YOU CAN LEARN ALL ABOUT THIS TOWN.>
<DON'T WORRY! I CAN ASK THE OWNER OF THE INN WE MET IN YESTERDAY!>

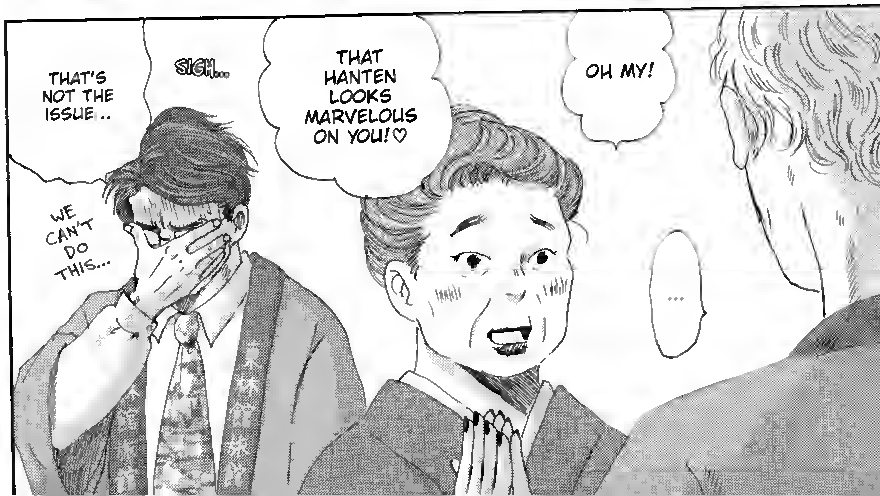
SIGN: TOURINKAN



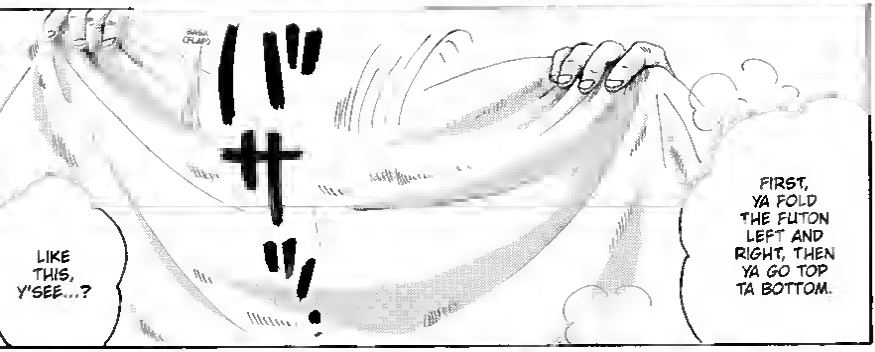


...AND GIVE HIM A JOB OUT OF THE BLUE!!
YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE IN SOME HALF-CRAZED FOREIGN-ER...
WHAT DO I—YOU KNOW FULL WELL WHAT I MEAN!!
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE'S BIG, STRONG, AND HONEST-LOOKING.
OH, WHAT'S THE HARM?
BUT... THAT'S NOT THE POINT..
KUMA CUPID
AND HONEST-LOOKING!
THOSE AREN'T THE ISSUES...
SHE'S A GENIUS, YOU KNOW.
YOU DON'T TRUST SATSUKI-CHAN?
...
SATSUKI SAYS THAT HE'S AN ENGINEER WHO'S COME ALL THE WAY TO OUR TOWN TO STUDY HOT SPRINGS...
BUT OKAMI-SAN, THAT'S NO REASON TO—
PLUS, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT POOR GIRL ACTUALLY LOOK HAPPY ABOUT SOMETHING...

CONT. TOURINKAN INN



Chapter 22
林檎


BASA (FLAP)
バサ!!
FIRST, YA FOLD THE FUTON LEFT AND RIGHT, THEN YA GO TOP TA BOTTOM.
LIKE THIS, Y'SEE...?

じっ…
JI (STARE)
IF YA GO TOP-TO-BOTTOM FIRST, IT DON'T LINE UP RIGHT.
AND THERE WE GO!!
POFU
ポフ
POFU (PAT)
ポフ

ONE FEATURE OF THE FLAT-FACE CULTURE IS THE WAY THEY CREATE AS MUCH SPACE AS POSSIBLE IN THEIR ROOMS..
AIN'T SO HARD, IS IT?
AND THIS WALL SPACE IS MUCH MORE LOGICAL THAN FREE-STANDING FURNITURE...
.....
WHEN YA PUT 'EM AWAY, THE ORDER GOES UNDERQUILT, TOP BLANKET, PILLOW, SHEETS!
YA GOT IT?
READY TA GIVE IT A SHOT WITH ME?

GARA GSHUNBO
ガラ～
HERE WE GO! SLIDE THE DOOR ON OPEN.
"PARDON ME, I'M HERE TA FOLD UP THE FUTON."
"PADAM, AIYA TAFFA MATON."
ONE MUST FOLD HIS BODY, NOT JUST THE BEDDING...
START BY PICKIN' UP THE SHEETS AND PILLOW.
THAT'S RIGHT!
...
AND PLOP 'EM RIGHT ON TOP OF THE SPOT WHERE THE FUTON WENT!

ふわ
FUWA
(FLUFF)
THERE YA GO, THERE YA GO!!
.....
PULL THE SHEETS TIGHT, THEN SET 'EM DOWN LIGHTLY.
OKAY! NEXT WE GOT THE TOP QUILT!!
THE OLD MAN'S END OF THE CLOTH IS NOT QUITE ALIGNED WITH THE MATTRESS UNDER-NEATH!!
ビシィー
BISHII
(SETTLED)
NOW WE FOLD THE SHEETS UNDER THE FUTON, Y'SEE...?

I PULLED SO FAR, THE MATTRESS IS POKING OUT...
HMM !?
<ONE CARELESS MISTAKE IN MEASUREMENT CAN BRING A TEMPLE TOPPLING DOWN!!>
.....
.....
ONCE THEY LIE DOWN IN IT, IT'S GONNA GET ALL SCRUNCHED UP ANYWAY...
LOOK, YA DON'T HAFTA BE THAT FUSSY ABOUT IT.
<NO!>
<THERE!!>
SHUTA (SHAVING)
<NO COMPRO-MISES!!>

LOOK, IT DON'T HAVE TO BE ABSOLUTELY SQUARE ..
<ON TO THE NEXT ROOM>
SIGH CANCELED
<.....>
<EVERY TASK OUGHT TO BE DONE TO PERFECTION!!>
<I NEED TO GO BACK TO RECHECK!!>
HUH!? WHERE YA GOIN' NOW!?
HOW SLOPPY OF ME..
THE EDGE OF THE FUTON AND THE BLACK BORDER IS NOT PARALLEL...
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE?
BACK AGAIN...?
SHEESH
REDOING IT

NEXT, WE WIPE DOWN THE HALLWAY FLOORS!!
IT'S AN OLD BUILDING!
IT WAS BUILT IN THE OLD-FASHIONED STYLE, SO THERE'RE PLENTY O' LONG HALLWAYS
FIRST DUNK THE RAG IN THE WATER...
I DUNNO HOW Y'ALL CLEAN THINGS IN YOUR COUNTRY...
A RAG'S THE BEST WAY TA GO!!
AND A SIMPLE MOP AIN'T GONNA CLEAN UP THIS OLD WOOD!!

...
SQUAT LIKE THIS!!
THIS ONE'S YOURS.
東
TENSE ALL YER STRENGTH IN THE LEGS, AND...
ぐい
CHARGE !!
ダダダーッ!!

IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW, IT'S HOW TA USE A RAG!!
HOW'S THIS!?
ドドドー
CHARGE BACK THE OTHER WAY!!
TSUTSUUU (SLIDE)
NO STOPPING! NOW TURN BACK!!
KAHHH!
THAT'S ONE SIDE DONE!!
HUFF
HUFF
PIKA
PIKA (SPARKLE)
LOOKIT THAT!! IT'S BRIGHT ENOUGH FOR THE BUDDHA HIMSELF TA WALK DOWN!!

だだだ
ニヤリ!
RAAAAH!!
ドドド

BASA (FLAP)
BASA
ドドド

YUKA
YUKA CHUCKLES
YUKA
ピャ
ピャ
YUKA
ピャ
YUKA (SPARKLE)
ピャ
ピャ
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
..ON..
.....
HUFF
HUFF
KOUJI OKONO
コ
コ
KOUJI OKONO
KO
KO
KO
KO
ココココ
...ON TO THE NEXT!

ゴゴゴゴ
東林館氷館
.....
.....
HIS MOVE-MENTS ARE INHUMAN!!
THE BLADE MOVES WITH SUCH SPEED...
ADDING GAR-NISH...
IT IS BEAUTI-FUL!!
ちっ ちっ

UH, S-SORRY...
THERE IS A SHARPNESS TO HIS FACE THAT IS UNLIKE THE OTHERS!!
.....
...YOU'RE KIND OF BREATHING DOWN MY NECK. CAN YOU FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO STAND...?
HMM!!
A CURIOUS FELLOW
...
THAT'S KATSU-SAN, THE CHEF. WATCH OUT, HE'S GOT A TEMPER ON 'IM!!
WHAT IS IT!?
.....
ズラー
ZURAA
CLINK!

BEAUTIFUL PRESENTATION ON TINY PLATES... IS THIS WHAT THE FLAT-FACES EAT FOR EVERY MEAL!?
.....
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF SKILL AND CARE GIVEN...
...TO SOMETHING MEANT TO BE POPPED INTO ONE'S MOUTH AND EATEN IN AN INSTANT...
THIS WAS CLEARLY ONCE A CARROT...
BACK IN ROME, THE RICH AND MIGHTY LIKE TO PREPARE LAVISH FEASTS TO SHOCK AND DELIGHT THEIR GUESTS...
...BUT THE CARE AND PREPARATION ...NO, THE WHOLE ATTITUDE TOWARD FOOD IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN THEIRS!!
EVEN IN ROME, THERE IS NO COOK WHO COULD PREPARE A MEAL SUCH AS THIS...
AAAH!
DON'T TOUCH THE FOOD WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!
...
OH, HELLO THERE!
AH! KIYO-CHAN!

SURE THING.
LET'S TRY IT WITH EMPTY PLATES FIRST.
GOOD TIMING! SHOW THIS NEW GUY HOW TO CARRY THE TRAYS!
HE'LL BE AMAZED!!
THEN WE STACK THEM ON TOP OF EACH OTHER!
NORMALLY IT'LL BE HEAVIER BECAUSE THERE'LL BE FOOD ON THEM, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA.
AND THERE SHE GOES!!
HUP HO
JUST LIKE SO!
PACHI CLAP!
PACHI
WHEN YOU'RE BUSY, YOU'LL BE CARRYING AS MANY AS THIS AT ONCE

'COURSE, YOU DON'T NEED TO CARRY THIS MANY...
SEE!? COOL, EH?
WHA —!?
HRRM!
.....
.....

WATCH OUT, YER GONNA HIT THE CEILING!!
HAH !!
ゴゴゴ (GOGO)
ガラガラガラ (GARAGARAGARA)
キ (KI)

HUFF
HUFF
.....
.....
WE'RE SORRY!
EEEK!
GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!!
<I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR DISRUPTING YOUR CONCENTRATION.>
<I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEANING THESE UP!!>
GATA GTAGGO
<GOOD CHEF...>
...WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
<GO ON! DON'T MIND ME, KEEP CREATING YOUR MASTERFUL DISHES!!>
<...YOU MUST NOT BLAME THEM.>

IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, I SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE THAT CHEF PREPARE FOOD FOR EMPEROR HADRIAN SOMEDAY..
THERE IS A ROMAN-LIKE DEDICATION TO THEIR CRAFT THAT THESE FLAT-FACES SHARE..
THE GUESTS WILL BE ARRIVIN' SOON, SO WE GOTTA WAIT AT THE FRONT DOOR!
IT'S ALMOST THREE O'CLOCK!
東林館
SIGN: TOURINKAN
WELCOME TO TOURINKAN!
GARA (SLIDE)
ガラガラ
GARA
OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH FISHING OUT GUNK!
BUT WHEN I CANNOT EVEN FIND THE WAY HOME MYSELF

OH, IT'S SO GOOD TO BE HERE!
...
WEL-COME!
THANK YOU FOR VISITING US!
SO ALL OF THE WORKERS HERE GREET THE VISITORS AT THE DOOR...
YOU CAN'T STARE DOWN THE CUSTOMERS ALL HAUGHTY LIKE THAT!!
HEY, PAL!
...I SEE...
...HOLD NO CONCEPT OF SOCIAL STRATA?
DOES THE WORLD OF THE FLAT-FACES...
LUCIUS-SAN!
IT'S SO HOT.
WHEW, WHAT A DAY!
THESE WOMEN LOOK LIKE SLAVES FROM THE UNCULTURED FRONTIER PROVINCES OF THE EMPIRE...

OH! SORRY, MA'AM! OF COURSE!
LUG...
KEEP AN EYE ON HIM! HE WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITHOUT YOU!
TAKE THE GUESTS' LUGGAGE TO THEIR ROOM.
LUG-GAGE!
...
IS HE AMERI-CAN?
OH, IS THAT SO?
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
IT'S HIS FIRST DAY ON THE JOB, SEE...
...WOULD ENERGIZE THE POPULATION, AND LEAD TO A RENEWED PRODUCTIVITY AND WEALTH FOR THE EMPIRE...
IT DOES SEEM THAT PROVIDING A PLACE OF RELAXATION WHERE ALL MEN CAN FORGET THE TROUBLES OF THEIR DAILY LIVES.

ちょんちょん
CHIRITONCHAN (TING-TING)
WE MUST BUILD ONE IN BAIAE...
...ITS POSITIVE EFFECTS COULD EXTEND TO SLAVES...
IF THERE WERE A THERMAE THAT OPERATED ON THIS BUSINESS MODEL IN ROME...
IT'S A SONG...
I UUN-TIED MY BLAAACK HAAIR...
WAIT, NO...
WHAT IS THAT SOUND...!?
.....
BEFOOORE I WENT TO SLEEEP...
LUCIUS, COME BACK!
I CAN HEAR IT COMING FROM BEHIND THIS DOOR...
HEY! NOT THAT WAY, LUCIUS!
I HAVE NEVER HEARD THE FLAT-FACES' MUSIC BEFORE!!

DIANA!?

Alongside the keywords "samurai," "Mount Fuji," and "sushi" that the rest of the world associates with Japan is the word "geisha." This one time, at my husband's home in Italy, my father-in-law was tired from a long day sitting at a desk at work. When he asked his wife to massage his shoulders, she said, "No way, I'm not a geisha!" In another country, I met a man who said, "I want to marry a woman like a geisha who will do everything for her husband." What is in the minds of the rest of the world that this is their image of a geisha?

Since I first studied in Italy at age seventeen, I've been working tirelessly to combat this bizarre interpretation of the geisha image. Much of my determination comes from my mother's inexplicable insistence that I learn a bit of the Hanayagi style of Japanese dance because if I "ran out of money in Italy, at least I could make ends meet by dancing." Unlike samba or salsa, where the dance consumes all of one's being, traditional Japanese dance requires the patience and stamina to hold a very specific fixed pose. Through my practice, I understood just how difficult it is to develop the tight control over mind and body these dances require.

Geisha are incredibly multi-talented people that must not only master these traditional dances, but also command the *shamisen* with skill, as well as wield the intelligence and grace to charm and entertain their guests.

Toukaikan coat.

Toukaikan Inn, a recognized cultural site in Ito.

But overseas, people only think of geisha as quiet women who are subservient to men, and I must constantly correct that misconception by telling them that the word "geisha" literally means "one who performs art."

So, keep in mind that I've had a lifetime of this. Back before the first volume of *Thermae Romae* had ever gone on sale, when I was full of anxiety and skepticism that there was even anyone reading my silly manga, I received a mysterious call from Editor in Chief Okumura, who ordered me to be a "hot spring geisha."

"There's a place at a hot spring town in Izu where you can experience being a hot spring geisha for a day, so go on and try it out," he said in a matter-of-fact tone completely at odds with the contents of his statement. At first I was totally incapable of deciphering his point, but as the conversation went on, I began to realize that he was proposing I draw a *Thermae* story in which Lucius meets a geisha in a hot spring town.

I answered, "Why can't I just look up whatever I need to know about geisha on the net?" "No, no, no! You can't understand the hardship a geisha must endure until you've tried it yourself!" he insisted. I withheld making a final decision, saying I'd think about it. I immediately received a call from the assistant editor in chief Iwai-san, who must have overheard the previous conversation.

"Listen, Yamazaki-san, you don't need to take every little thing the Editor in Chief says seriously. Just turn him down if you don't feel like it, okay? You don't have to do anything you don't want to do!"

Preparing the geisha's makeup.

Learning the arts of a geisha.

Upon hearing this advice from the chief's right-hand man, the brilliant mind helping run *Comic Beam*, I admitted, "Yes... It seems silly to go all the way from Portugal (my home at the time) to Japan just to practice being a geisha in a hot spring town." I was prepared to decline the offer.

However, that summer I moved back to Japan temporarily and, unable to shake off the editor's insistence that I "wouldn't know until I'd tried it myself," I gave in to his request. Both the fame of the location and my long period without a bathtub to use were the primary factors in this decision.

The program lasted two days. On the first day, I would attempt to learn the mindset, dances, and songs of the geisha, and on the second day, I would be outfitted in the full garb and makeup of the geisha to perform what I had learned in front of an audience—a rather daunting course for a total beginner.

I survived the grueling first day, and when the moment of truth came, I slipped into the black kimono and found out that the traditional geisha hairstyle wig they provided did not look good on me at all. It was a terrible letdown, as I came to the crushing realization that I didn't have a single ounce of qualification to be a geisha.

I jokingly asked Editor in Chief Okumura, "What do I look like, Michael Jackson dressing up in geisha cosplay?" hoping for a kind-hearted reassurance to the contrary. He delightfully chortled, "Yeah, you kinda do!" My heart was plunged into an icy emptiness for an instant, but since I was already in the full getup, there was no use feeling sorry for myself. I braced myself and walked out in front of an unfamiliar crowd of spectators, put on a sorry display of a dance, and finished the course.

Editor in Chief Okumura in a kimono, for some reason.

Me in full geisha pose.

We took pictures in full costume to commemorate the occasion, then I removed the kimono and sat on the tatami floor of the inn, completely exhausted. Suddenly, the dancing teacher came by and said, "We've prepared the bathing area for you, so go on in!" In an instant, I regained all of my strength and willpower and dashed off to the bath like a racehorse. As I sat soaking in the old-fashioned glory of Toukaikan's famous bath, I could feel the exhaustion of the last two days and the disappointment in my lack of suitability for the geisha wig just melt away. It was a sensation I'll never forget for as long as I live.

Incidentally, I did some research to see if there was anything in the Roman bathing culture that might be analogous to the geisha's role in Japan's hot spring culture. I learned that in the luxurious resorts of Baiae, there were women whose job was to perform dances at feasts and parties. They would dance, play instruments, and entertain visitors to the hot spring—just the things that might make them the geisha of ancient Rome.

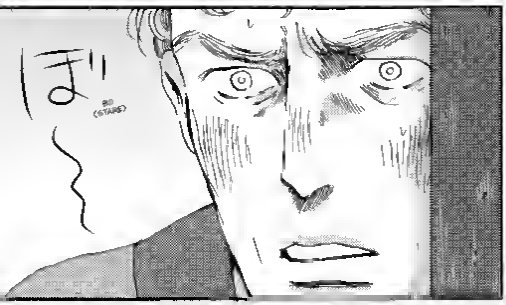
However, I feel like the geisha of Japan is a far higher grade of entertainer, because one can spend years of hard training to learn difficult dances and songs, and in the end, if the hairstyle doesn't look good on you, you're a failure.

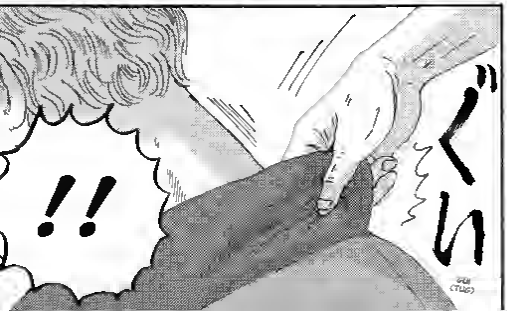
It is truly a difficult task to be a graceful and vivid entertainer to those vacationers who come to hot spring towns to unwind and relax. Just as the editor in chief said, "You won't know until you try it yourself."

The geisha dance of ancient Rome.

The entrance to Toukaikan

Chapter 23

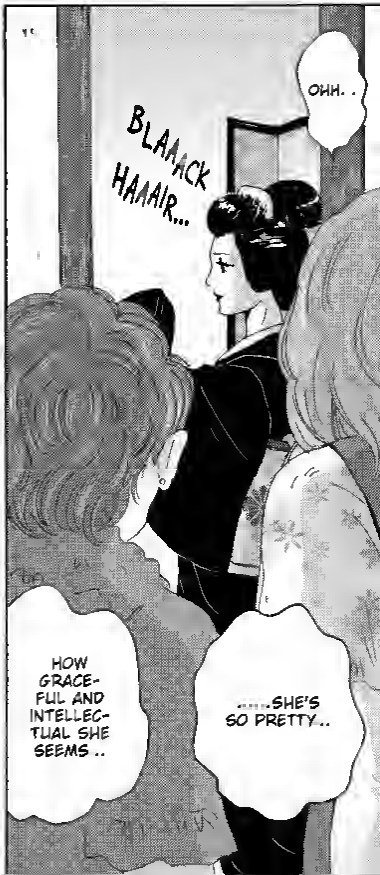




OH MY!!
...
NOT WHEN THE GUESTS ARE WATCHING!
DON'T SNEAK OFF LIKE THAT!!
LOOK AT THAT!!
LOOK, SATOU-SAN! A GEISHA!!

.....
HEY, NEW GUY!
NO PEEKING IN AT THE SHOW!!

...
AHEM!
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!!
SATSUKI-CHAN'S A WOMAN WITH MORE THAN ONE GOD-GRANTED GIFT!

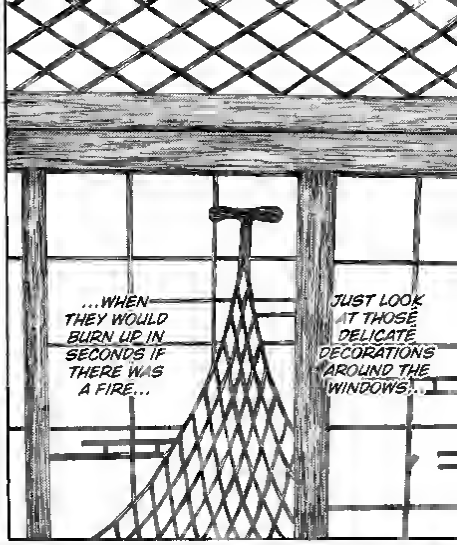

OHH..
BLAAACK HAAAIR...
HOW GRACE-FUL AND INTELLEC-TUAL SHE SEEMS ..
.....SHE'S SO PRETTY..

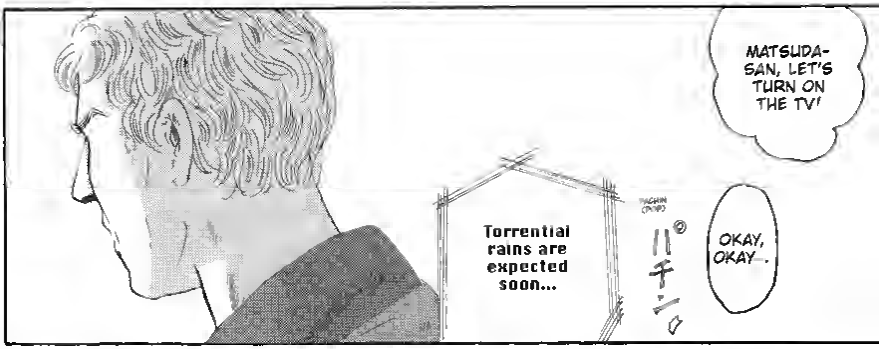
WHIIITE SNOW...
...PILING HIGH...
SHE'S GOT THE BLOOD OF A NATURAL GEISHA RUNNIN' THROUGH HER VEINS!

VERY GOOD, SATSUKI..
HA HA HA!
THAT'S IT!
...
SATSUKI, AGE FIVE
SHE STARTED LEARNING TRADITIONAL DANCE AT THE INSISTENCE OF HER MOTHER, A FAMOUS GEISHA IN TOWN. THE TEACHER SOON SAW HER TALENT...
SHE WAS STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT SHE WAS A GENIUS IN BOTH STUDIES AND DANCE...
SATSUKI, AGE FOURTEEN
AT FOURTEEN, SATSUKI-CHAN WAS THE YOUNGEST TO EVER MASTER THAT STYLE, STRIVING TO LIVE UP TO HER LATE MOTHER'S REPUTATION...
I BELIEVE IT! WHY, SHE'S PRETTY MUCH PERFECT!
SEE HOW GREAT SATSUKI-CHAN IS!?
HO HO..
KA HA HA!
WO!
...BUT SHE'S STILL THE MOST POPULAR DANCER IN TOWN...
NOW SHE'S BUSY WITH HER SCHOLARLY WORK, SO SHE ONLY COMES BY ONCE IN A WHILE...

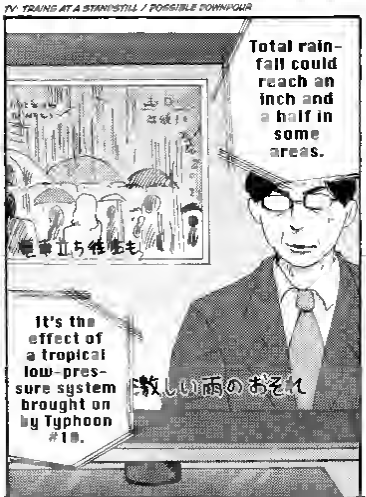
GO (GRRAO)
NO DAWDLING, LUCIUS!
...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT TO SEE GEISHA-SAN!
..
OH, WONDER-FUL.
ZORO (WANDERS)
ALL RIGHT, LET'S SHOW Y'ALL TO YER ROOM!! THE BATH'LL BE NICE AND QUIET FOR YA!
ZORO
ZORO
SHI (FWISH)
OUR EYES MET!!
OH NO!!
東
大
...
.....
QUIT WASTIN' MY TIME!
ARE YOU COMIN', OR DO I HAFTA DRAG YOU FROM THAT SPOT!?

THIS IS THE ROOM YOU'LL BE STAYING IN!
ALL RIGHT, YOUNG LADIES!
松
SIGN: MATSU ROOM
OOOH, ISN'T THIS TASTEFUL?
IT'S JUST LOVELY.
WE CAN FORGIVE HIM A LITTLE PEEK, RIGHT?
OH, BUT I'M SURE HE'S JUST AMAZED AT THE SIGHT OF A REAL GEISHA— ESPECIALLY ONE SO PRETTY...
...
DON'T SPOIL 'IM!!
YOU CAN SEE THE RIVER, MATSUDA-SAN!
HOW'S THE VIEW?
COOKING, CONSTRUCTION... THE CARE AND DETAIL THESE PEOPLE PUT INTO EVERY FACET IS ASTOUNDING...
IT DOES NOT MATCH THEIR APPEARANCE IN THE LEAST...
MY WORD...
.....
.....





TV: TRAINS AT A STANDSTILL / POSSIBLE DOWNPOUR


Total rainfall could reach an inch and a half in some areas.
It's the effect of a tropical low-pressure system brought on by Typhoon #18.
激しい雨のおそれ

BUT IT'S SO GORGEOUS OUT RIGHT NOW!
OH DEAR...
!?
Authorities are urging residents of the area to be wary of flash flooding.
WHY IS THERE A PERSON INSIDE THIS BOX!?
WHAT IS THIS!?
Moving on...
The system will remain in place from morning to evening tomorrow...
.....
...with the most concentrated rain coming in the afternoon...
LET'S SWITCH TO A LESS OMINOUS PROGRAM...
WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM..?
HE MUST BE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE RAIN...

I didn't want to see you! ♪
BKA
I didn't want to see you! ♪
I didn't want to see you! ♪
THERE! THIS WILL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THE WEATHER, I BET!
No!!
...WHAT... IS GOING ON...?
I DON'T... UNDER-STAND...
.....
.....
Be true to yourself... ♪

SOMEONE EXPLAIN IT ALL TO ME...
...and to meee~
GORO (RUMBLE)
GORO GORO...
GORO (RUMBLE)
GORO...
SAA (RAIN)
ザー
...
SATSUKI-CHAN, YOU'RE SOAKED!!
OH! OKAMI-SAN!
GARA (SLIDE)
ガラッ

WELL, GOOD WORK WITH THE SHOW TONIGHT...
NO, I'LL MANAGE.
IT'S THE CHANGING OF THE SEASONS. DO YOU NEED A TOWEL?
IT'S REALLY POURING OUT THERE...
..HOW IS LUCIUS DOING?
UM, OKAMI-SAN—
HE WAS MOST DEDICATED TO THE BATH MAINTE-NANCE.
BUT HE'S GOT THAT CRAFTMAN'S MINDSET.
HA HA.
HE SEEMS TO GET A LITTLE... ABSORBED...IN THE DETAILS, THOUGH.
OH.. HE'S VERY ENTHUSI-ASTIC, YOU KNOW.
WHEW...
.....OH, GOOD...
HOW-EVER..

IN FRONT OF THE TV, OR THE COMPUTER AT THE REGISTER, OR THE FAX MACHINE.
WHAT!?
. HE KEEPS HUNCHING OVER AND TREMBLING...
...FOR SOME REASON
ZAZA (HEAVY)
BUT... WHY!?
YESTERDAY, HE ALMOST THREW UP LOOKING AT A CELL PHONE...
URGH!
NO IDEA...
.....
.....
.....
Why are you avoiding me!?
Don't you see? I'm serious about you!

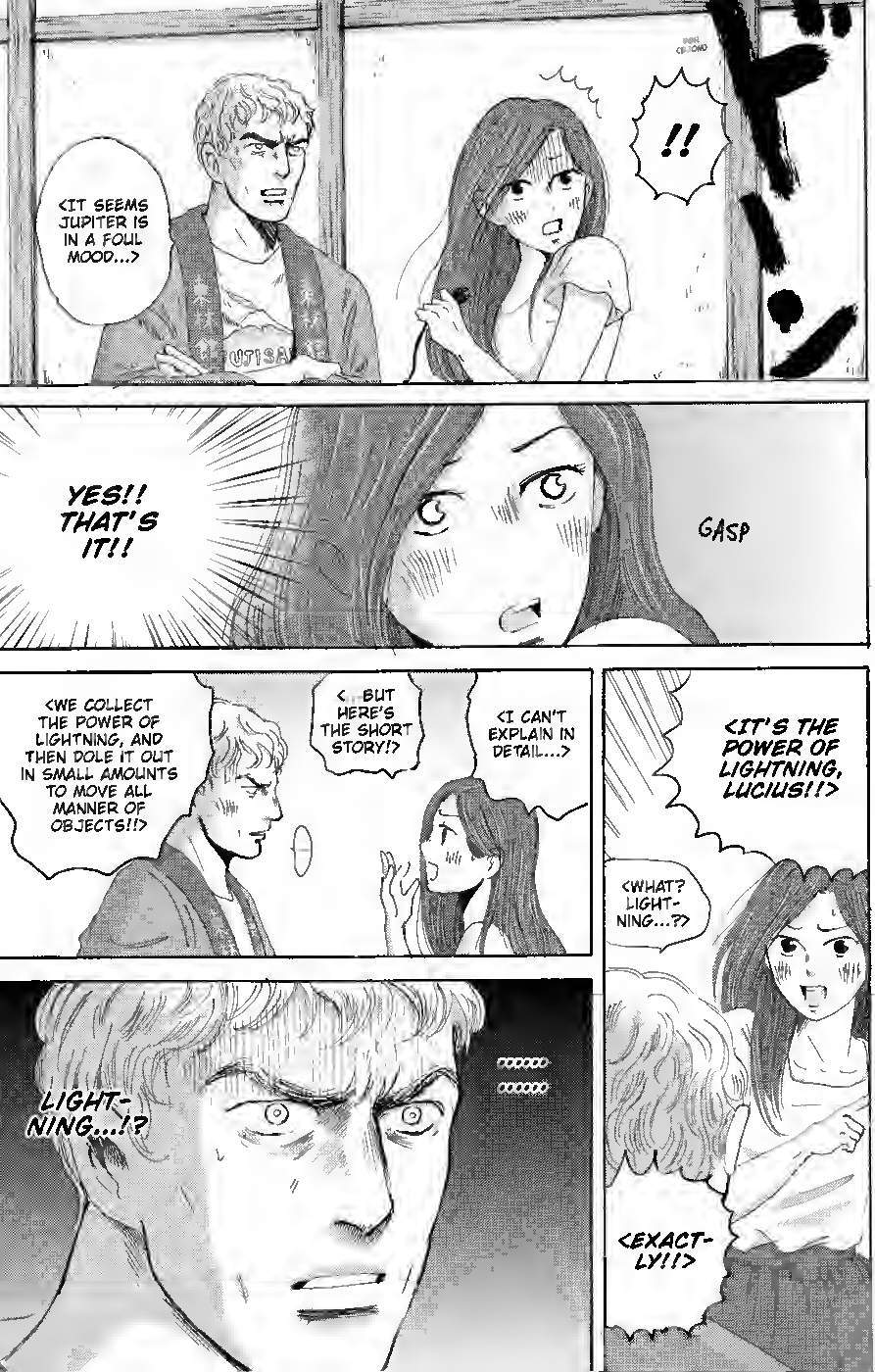
Oh!
We can't, Tsutomu-san!!
No! Stop!
I love you!!
Eeek!!
<LUCIUS...>

<ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LUCIUS?>
<D... DIANA!!>
.....
.....
<.....
.....>
カッ
SETTLE DOWN, SETTLE DOWN...
<.....
.....>
WHY DOES MY HEART BEAT SO'?
<IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU WITH YOUR JOB? DON'T HIDE IT, JUST TELL ME...>
ドキ
ドキドキ
<WHAT?>
ボ!
<I JUST WANT YOU TO TELL ME ONE THING...>

Tsu-tomu-san!
I love you, baby!!
<I WANT TO KNOW!!>
<HOW ARE THERE HUMAN BEINGS AND OTHER THINGS INSIDE OF THIS FLIMSY OBJECT!?>
FUJISAN
東林館旅館
...HUH?
...
<WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THERE!?>
DAAAH!!
<HOW DOES IT WORK!?>
.....
.....
NO WAY..HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT A TV IS!?

<IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! IT CANNOT EXIST!!>
<IT'S NOT AS THOUGH SOMETHING IS REFLECTING OFF OF THIS SURFACE!! AND NO ONE COULD ACTUALLY FIT INSIDE OF IT!!>
!!
WHAT IF I...?
...
<.. DO YOU KNOW WHAT I JUST DID...?>
<LUCIUS..>
<YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS... RIGHT!?>
<TH-THEY DISAP-PEARED!>
<THEY JUST VANISHED!!>

HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT ELECTRICITY IS!!
.....
<I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU DID!!?
<THAT'S NICE, BUT CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS CONTRAPTION FIRST!?>
NO...WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN A TV TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND ELECTRICITY?
...?
F-FIRST I'LL EXPLAIN HOW THE TV WORKS...
IS LUCIUS REALLY FROM ANCIENT TIMES!?
BUT... THAT'S SO PREPOSTEROUSLY SILLY...
THAT COULD NEVER BE TRUE... HA-HA-HA
ARRGH! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN ELECTRICITY TO SOMEONE?
I WAS A HUMANITIES MAJOR... I CAN'T EXPLAIN THIS TECHNOLOGICAL STUFF...
<DIANA... WHAT'S THE MATTER!?>
<DIANA...?>
KA CRASH


!!
<IT SEEMS JUPITER IS IN A FOUL MOOD...>
YES!! THAT'S IT!!
GASP
<WE COLLECT THE POWER OF LIGHTNING, AND THEN DOLE IT OUT IN SMALL AMOUNTS TO MOVE ALL MANNER OF OBJECTS!!>
< BUT HERE'S THE SHORT STORY!?
<I CAN'T EXPLAIN IN DETAIL...>
<IT'S THE POWER OF LIGHTNING, LUCIUS!!>
<WHAT? LIGHT-NING...?>
<EXACT-LY!!>
LIGHT-NING...!?

JUPITER, KING OF THE GODS...
...IS GRANTING THE POWER OF HIS LIGHTNING TO THE FLAT-FACED PEOPLE!?

ACCORDING TO THE WRITINGS OF PLINY THE ELDER, LIGHTNING IS SIMPLY LIGHT FORMED FROM CLOUDS RUBBING TOGETHER, FALLING TO THE EARTH...
BE CALM, LUCIUS...
GAKU! (SLUMP)
ガク？
*PLINY THE ELDER: THE GREATEST NATURALIST AND SOLDIER OF ANCIENT ROME. AUTHOR OF NATURALIS HISTORIA. THE ROMANS EVEN HAD A SCIENTIFIC THEORY TO EXPLAIN LIGHTNING
...AND THEN CALL IT FORTH TO BRING LIFE TO THEIR CREATIONS..
SO THE FLAT-FACES COLLECT LIGHTNING, HIDE IT SOMEWHERE..
THESE ODD LITTLE...
GUGU (SQUIRM)
CAN THESE FUNNY HOLES REALLY MAKE THEM MOVE?
AND THIS STRANGE HOLE IS THE MEANS TO THAT LIGHTNING?
GO (OOK)
.....

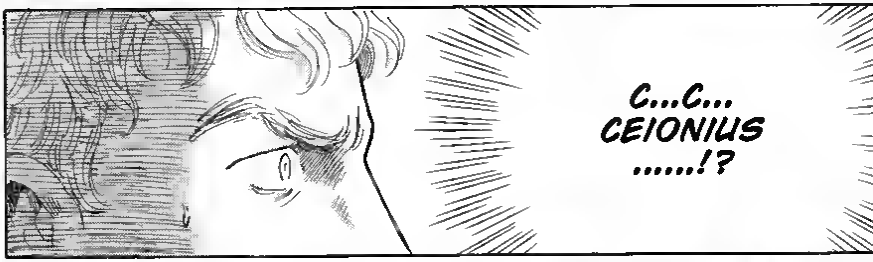
Oh, honey!
Oh, Sachiko!!
How I've waited for this day to come...
.....
.....
東林
東林
<WHAT'S WRONG, LUCIUS!?>
...!!
<THERE IS NO WAY TO STAND UP TO A PEOPLE THAT CAN WIELD SUCH TERRIBLE POWER...>
<HNNGH...>

SO (ST...KE)
<NO ONE IN ROME HAS EVER DISCOVERED SUCH A MEANS OF POWER...>
<LU-CIUS ..?
<MY PROUD, MIGHTY ROME...>
<...?
<IT'S NOT JUST ME! EVERY-ONE KNOWS OF THE GLORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE...>
<I UNDERSTAND, LUCIUS! I'M JUST LIKE YOU! I AM PROUD OF ROME'S GREAT CULTURE!>
<DON'T BE SO UPSET, LUCIUS...>
<ROME'S CULTURE ISN'T INFERIOR TO SIMPLE LIGHTNING!>
...DIAN...

<I AM SORRY TO CAUSE YOU CONCERN, DIANA...>
GARA GARA GARA GARA (SOUND)
LU-CIUS..
DOKI (HEART-THUMP)
SA-TSU-KI-CHAN!
<.....>
GOOD EVENING!
GASP
YOU HERE, SATSUKI-CHAAAN!?
KOTSU (TOCK)
HELLO? ANYONE HOME?
ISN'T TONIGHT YOUR BIG STAGE SHOW!?

I BROUGHT YOU SOME SWEETS FROM MON CHERIE!♡
I KNOW THEY'RE YOUR FAVORITE!
<DIANA...? WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?>
<S-SORRY, I NEED TO GET THAT...>
.....WHAT'S GOING ON.....?
...
COM-ING...
SIGH..
HE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP!
UH-OH, THAT IDIOT BOY FROM NEXT DOOR IS HERE.

C'MON, DON'T YOU WANNA EAT THEM TOGETHER?
OH, THIS? JUST A BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET OF FLOWERS FOR A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.♡
PARIS
.....


C...C... CEIONIUS .....!?

HEY.. WHO'S THE EXOTIC FOREIGN STUD OVER THERE?
WH- WHAT IS CEIONIUS DOING HERE...?
HUH?

Chapter 24

OH...IS HE A NEW EMPLOYEE HERE?
UM.. YES, KIND OF...
WOW, AN INTER-NATIONAL STAFF!!
WHAT IS CEIO— I MEAN, AELIUS DOING HERE!?

NO, WAIT! AELIUS DIED MANY DAYS AGO!!
.....
THIS IS SIMPLY A FLAT-FACE WHO BEARS AN UNCANNY RESEM-BLANCE...!!
スタスタ
<HI! HELLO!♡>
<HOW ARE YOU!?>
...
LIM...
HE CAN'T SPEAK ENGLISH.
<NICE TO MEET YOU!>
<MY NAME IS KEISUKE! HA-HA!♡>
HUH!? REALLY?
WHERE'S HE FROM, THEN!?
...

OHH! CIAO! AMIGO!
<WHA—!?>
FERRARI! MASERATI! SPAGHETTI!
がふぁ
I THINK HE'S ITALIAN...
OHH!?
YOU! ITALIA!?
SO THIS PIECE IS FROM LAST YEAR'S COLLECTION.
WHO IS THIS MAN? WHY IS HE SO FORWARD WITH ME ....!?
MY WATCH IS A PANERAI, AND MY PANTS ARE EMPORIO ARMANI!
THIS SHIRT'S A D&G... Y'KNOW, DOLCE & GABBANA? OH YEAH.♡
Y.....
SEE? ALL ITALIAN!☆
YEAH!☆
THUMBS UP!

LET'S DIG INTO THESE SWEETS, SATSUKI-CHAN!♡
WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT.
...LL OF HIS LUXURIOUS RTICLES WOULD SUGGEST THAT HE IS ONE OF THE ELITE CL SS IN THIS SOCIETY...
.....HIS OVER-BEARING MANNER TOWARD WOMEN IS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF CEIO—AELIUS!!
LOOK, I WAS THINKING OF TAKING YOU OUT FOR A DRIVE IN MY MASERATI, BUWUT..
I TOLD YOU, I HAVE TO WORK TONIGHT, KEISUKE-SAN!
WH-WHAT'S UP...?
...HUH!?
<WHY DON'T YOU STOP THAT!?>
GASHI (GRASP)
OW!

I'VE TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER AGAIN, I STILL HAVE A PERFORMANCE LEFT!
I'M BUSY!
WH.. WHAT'S HE SAY-ING?
<DO YOU NOT SEE THAT SHE IS UNHAPPY WITH YOU!?>
YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED WORK YET.
OHH, I GOTCHA, I GOTCHA.
SORRY FOR SETTING OFF YOUR NEW MACHO BOY-FRIEND.☆
TELL YOU WHAT, I'LL JUST POP BACK IN SOME OTHER DAY THAT'S A LITTLE MORE CONVENIENT!♡ CIAO!
WHOA, HE'S RIPPED...
.....
OH, AND EAT THOSE SWEETS WHENEVER YOU LIKE.♡

ANYWAY, SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!
RIGHT, RIGHT!
OH!
WE'RE NOT SELLING!
W-WE'RE NOT...
OH...
OKAMI-SAN! I WAS HOPING TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER ABOUT MY BUYOUT OFFER?
HIRING A NEW GUY'S A NICE MOVE, BUT THE SHIP'S STILL SINKING.
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, OKAMI-SAN.
BUT I'M A NICE GUY, SO I'LL TAKE THE INN OFF YOUR HANDS ANY-TIME...AND I'LL PAY CASH TOO.♡
...

THAT CLOWN...
PISHA CTHUNG
ピシャ。
COCKY LIL' CREEP!
TCH!
WELP, CATCH YA LATER!♡
<HE'S THE MANAGER OF THE HOTEL DOWN THE STREET...>
<THANK YOU, LUCIUS!>
<I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS!>
<WAIT, LUCIUS! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?>
KURU CHUNG
<HE IS A WEAKLING, AND PERHAPS HE MEANS WELL...>
<...BUT THAT'S THE WAY HE IS!>
3

CURSES...
<LUCIUS!?>
ZAZAA (SFX)
SEEING THAT MAN'S FACE HAS GOT ME WORRIED AGAIN...
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED...
...WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO ROME?
ZAZA
ZAPA (SFX)
...WHAT COULD BE HAPPENING TO THE EMPIRE WHILE I AM AWAY?
WITH THE EMPEROR YET TO DETERMINE AN HEIR...

...THAT THEY PUT INTO MOTION WHILE I HAVE BEEN GONE?
COULD THOSE ANTI-HADRIAN SENATORS HAVE PLOTTED AN UNSAVORY CONSPIRACY...
LUCIUS'S IMAGINATION
...BUT IS HE TRULY CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THE EMPEROR...?
HADRIAN SEEMED TO PLACE HIS FAITH IN SENATOR ANTONINUS...
I AM SO WORRIED!
...
IF ONLY I COULD RETURN TO ROME, EVEN FOR JUST AN INSTANT...!

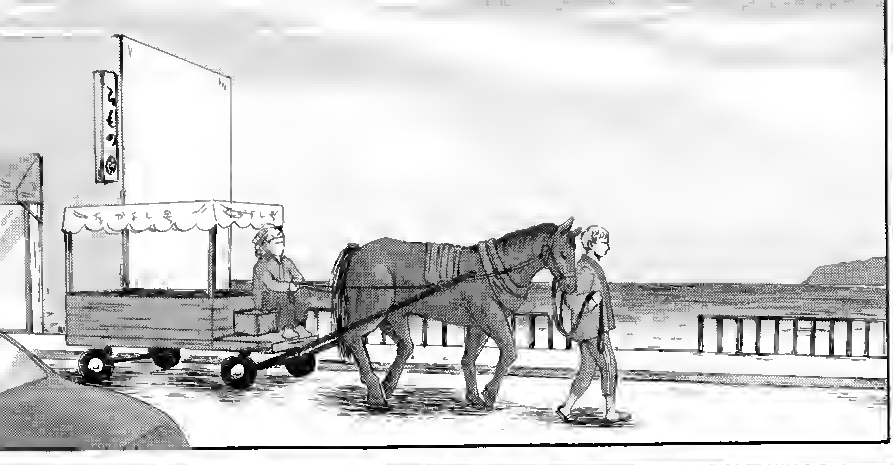
...I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID I WOULD NOT MISS DIANA...
AND...
BUT IF I GO HOME WITHOUT ANY NEW KNOWLEDGE, I WILL ONLY DISAPPOINT HADRIAN...
IF I COULD AT LEAST UNDERSTAND THE LIGHTNING SHE DESCRIBED...
SUUHUM (BREE-HEE-HEE!)
ブヒヒー
NO..... I COULD NOT DO THAT...
...WHY COULDN'T I SIMPLY BRING HER BACK TO ROME WITH ME...!?
KASHI
かし
かし
KASHI (CLOP)
BREE-HEE-HEE!
A HORSE!?

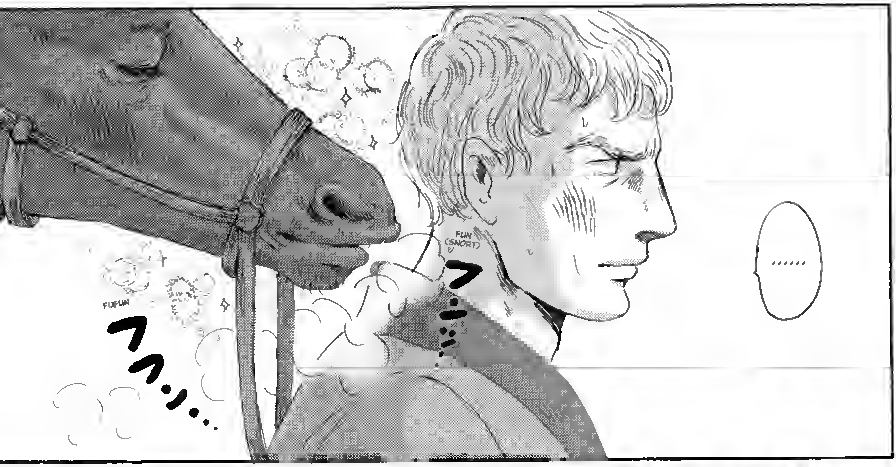
THERE IT IS!
BUFUU (SNORT)
ブフー
WHY DO I HEAR A HORSE...?
ZAZA (FSHH)
SHE'S NOT A YOUNG MARE...
IT SEEMS EVERYTHING IN THIS LAND IS POWERED BY LIGHTNING, SO NO DOUBT A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE MUST BE A QUAINT SIGHT TO THEM...
BUFUU
ブフッ
A CHARIOT HORSE, THEN...
BUHHN
ブルヒヒーンッ
PERHAPS SHE'S UPSET AT BEING LEFT ALONE FOR SO LONG...
BUU (SNIFF)
ブゥ

<EASY, GIRL, EASY...?
<I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I AM UNABLE TO RETURN TO WHERE I BELONG TOO...?
...
SIGN HANDMADE TO ORDER
OOOH, I JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THAT FRESH TASTE!
AND THIS SQUID! IT'S DELECTABLE!
IT'S TOO BAD IT DOESN'T SELL AS MUCH AS THE REST, HA-HA
<YOU'RE TOO GOOD A HORSE TO BE NEGLECTED LIKE THIS!?

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
HOW ABOUT THAT? TESTY OL' HAN□KO PLAYIN' NICE!
HUH?
OH...? WHO'S THAT STANDIN' NEXT TO HAN□KO?
FAN: ITO SUMMER FESTIVAL
SPR: PATA (FLAP) PATA
.....
WE'RE YOU WATCHING OVER HANAKO FOR ME?
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!
.....
YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND HORSES, EH?
HANAKO NEVER TAKES TO NOBODY!
YOU'RE LIKE A HORSE WHISPERER!
OHH, IT'S YOU!
YOU'RE THE NEW FOREIGNER-SAN AT TOURIN-KAN!!

HANAKO! COME, GIRL!!
...
(BLAM CRACK!)
ガヒ
HANAKO!!
C'MON, HANAKO, LET'S GO HOME!!
(CLUD CTUD)
しぃっ
STOP IT, HANAKO!!
(GRABU CHAKU)
しぃっ
<YOU SHOULDN'T PULL HER THAT HARD!>
<YOU MUST RESPECT THE HORSE'S FEELINGS...>
(GOTI GRATTLE)
ゴトっ
...OH MY...
(SUTO CRUNCH)
すり
(SUTO)
すり





SIGN: ITO TOURIST FARM

SIGN: THE NAKAYOSHI

ごあんない
SIGN: ITO TOURIST FARM / HORSEBACK RIDING / THIRTY MINS - 1,500 YEN / FIFTY MINS - 2,000 YEN

...
GOOOSH
GOSH
GOSH
GOSH (ALSO)

...CARING FOR THIS HORSE REMINDS ME OF MY CHILD-HOOD...

THAT'S THE FOREIGNER-SAN FROM TOURINKAN! WHAT A KIND FELLOW...
ISN'T HE NICE? HE'S DONE ALL THIS FOR ME, AND I DIDN'T EVEN ASK!

ATIA WAS GRACEFUL, STRONG, AND SMART.
SHE WAS VERY GOOD TO ME...
MANY WERE THE DAYS I CARED FOR ATIA, MY FATHER'S HORSE...
TO TAKE A BATH.
WHERE YOU GOIN'?
WITH ONLY THOSE TWO ELDERLY PEOPLE HERE, IT'S NO WONDER, PERHAPS..
BUT THIS MARE HANAKO IS UNKEMPT AND BADLY MAINTAINED, POOR GIRL.....
ROMAN HORSES ARE WELL CARED FOR— THEY ARE VITAL AS A MEANS OF TRANSPORT ACROSS THE VAST REACHES OF THE EMPIRE.
<I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, HANAKO!>
.....
<ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY!>
<THERE! MUCH BETTER...>

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
!!
SALVE. GOOD-BYE.
ブヒーブヒヒッ
ブヒブヒーン
HORSE-POOPIE!
DUMB OL' NAG!
NEENER, NEENER!
HA HA HA HA!
WONDER IF SHE'S GOIN' THROUGH MENOPAUSE...
.....
THAT'S NO FUSS FOR AN OLD LADY TO MAKE!
OH, WHAT IS IT!? YOU SILLY HORSE...
...

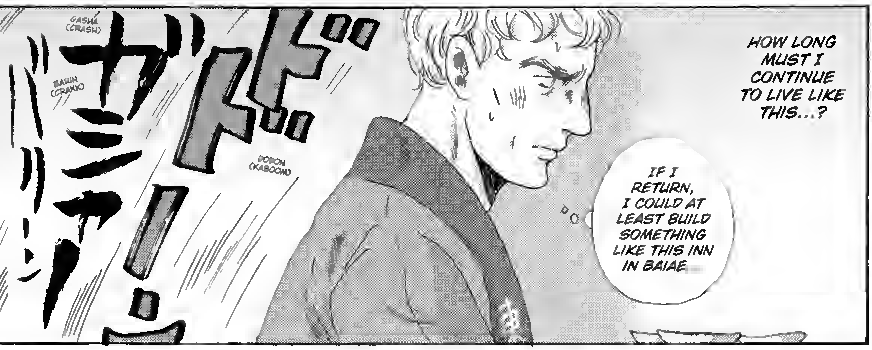
LOOK, IT HAS SUPER-LONG BEARD AND NOSE HAIRS!!
CHA-HA HA! GROSS!
OH, HANAKO'S NOT A RACEHORSE, BOYS.
CAN THIS HORSE EVEN RUN?
OH MY, JUST LIKE ME!
HYA HA HA!
ME TOO.
HO HO HO!
HORSE HAS QUITE A GUT, DOESN'T IT?
TAKE THE PICTURE, GRANDPA!
BEGHA (SPLAT)
ME NEXT!
EWW! THAT HORSE SMELLS, LIKE, SO GROSS!
KYA HA HA!
UM, A HORSE? NO THANKS.
WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO TAKE A RIDE ON HORSEBACK? TO REMEMBER YOUR VACATION BY?
HANAKO!

WE'VE GOT GUESTS! GET READY FOR A RIDE!
BUT SHE'S VERY CALM AND WELL-MANNERED, SO YOU'LL DO JUST FINE!
WELL, LET'S GET YOU SET UP.
THIS GIRL HERE IS HANAKO... WELL, SHE'S MORE THAN A GIRL, SHE'S A WHOPPING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD!
NOW WHERE'S YOUR SADDLE?
HANG ON, GIRL...

どっ
BO (GALLOP)
GACK!
HA...
DODO (GALLOP)
どどっ
どどっ
バキッ
BAKI (CRUNCH)
BAKI (CRACK)
...HANAKO RAN OFF!!

GACHAN (THUMP)
GATA (CLANK)
GACHA
OH, YOU CAN TAKE THAT DISH OUT NOW!
ANOTHER ROUND OF FIVE BEERS!!
AHH!
NOT THAT ONE, THIS ONE!!
DOUBLE-CHECK THE NUMBER!
GAYA (CHATTER)
WA HA HA HA!
AH THANK YOU!

...
THREE MORE OF THESE!
OH, LUCIUS! CAN YOU CARRY THIS OUT THERE?


GASHA (CRASH)
BAKIN (CRACK)
DOBON (KABOOM)
HOW LONG MUST I CONTINUE TO LIVE LIKE THIS...?
IF I RETURN, I COULD AT LEAST BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THIS INN IN BAIAE

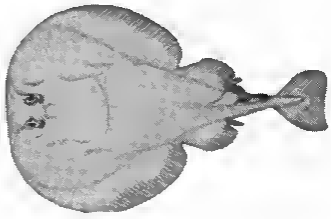
...HO...
H...
AAAGH!
WHAT WAS THAT!?

ブヒヒー!
...HORSE IN THE BUILDING!!

As Lucius's constant travels from bath to bath and his many episodic encounters with the culture and artistry of Japanese bathing piled up one after the other, making this manga much longer than I'd ever imagined it would run, I realized that there was one major problem I would have to address eventually. In time, Lucius would have to face the incredible wealth of modern things outside of the bath that ancient Rome could never have known.

In the very first chapter of *Thermae Romae*, Lucius time-warped to 1970s Japan, where he wandered outside and saw an automobile pass before his eyes with incredible speed, but he only reacted to the pungent smell of its exhaust, not noticing or caring what that automobile actually was or how it worked. Between the electric fan in the changing room, the refrigerator that chilled the juice-flavored milk and the other electric appliances, Lucius did not possess the mental presence to consider how these objects operated.

But after four books of visits to Japan, it would be simply unnatural to pretend that with his growing experience in the modern world, Lucius would fail to notice or take interest in contemporary technology. The editor in chief said, "If you don't address this pretty soon, it'll start to bother the readers," and suggested that I spend a chapter breaking down the concept of electricity for Lucius in the simplest possible terms.



Electric ray

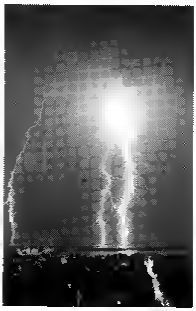
Once, on a return trip to Japan, I tried out a massage chair in a department store. This incredible chair, a combination of science, technology, and both Western and Eastern massage concepts, rubbed and pleasured my skin and muscles from my toes to my scalp. It occurred to me that if an ancient Roman could ever experience such a thing, he would surely assume that an army of massaging slaves was hidden behind the surface of the chair. In those times, most labor was carried out by slaves or livestock, so to a man like Lucius, it would only be natural to assume that if no means of propulsion was visible, it was surely the act of something living but out of sight.

However, when it comes to flat-screen TVs, computers and cell phones, objects that could in no way house an actual human being, the slave interpretation just doesn't hold water.

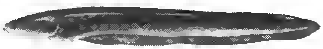
So I decided to tie all the various high-tech appliances that Lucius came across on this trip to "lightning," a natural phenomenon that he could understand. I knew that it would be very difficult to explain the concept of electricity to someone who didn't understand it regardless, but even still, I had my fears that this plan of action was careless at best and irresponsible at worst.

However, as I studied up the ancients' understanding of natural forces, I was shocked to learn that the Greeks and Romans already had a working concept of "electricity."

Back then, both the Greeks and Romans used electric eels and rays from the Nile in a rudimentary form of shock therapy to treat ailments like gout and headaches.



Lightning

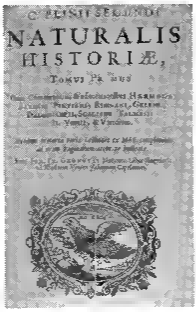


Electric eel

Also, in Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia*, Volume 2, Chapter 43, he describes lightning not as light and explosions hurled by the great Greco-Roman god Jupiter, but the effect of friction and expanding steam within clouds. Pliny had an interpretation based on scientific principles. It is known that they were aware of magnets and static electricity, so if any experiments had been attempted combining all of these properties, it's quite possible that mankind may have understood the existence of electricity two thousand years earlier than the invention of electrical power.

As far as other forms of power go, the Romans clearly understood how to utilize steam for baths, so had their prosperity not collapsed when it did, it would likely have been just a matter of time until they developed steam power.

We know that around the time the Roman Republic turned into the Roman Empire, a mathematician in Alexandria named Heron developed a toy-like contraption that was powered by steam. A boiler at the bottom created steam pressure that was transferred through pipes to fill a sphere at the top, which had an exhaust pipe that would propel it to rotate in a specific direction. The exhaust caused the sphere to spin extremely fast, making this, in concept, the first working steam turbine. And the steam turbine is a propulsion system that we still make use of today in many different kinds of power generation, including combustion, nuclear, and geothermal.



Pliny's *Naturalis Historia*

Pliny the Elder

If they had managed to develop steam power in ancient Rome, the incredible world-changing industrial revolution of the 18th century might have taken place back then. According to some historical experts, it is likely that others of the time attempted to put Heron's *aeolipile* to larger-scale practical use, but that the likely ensuing explosion would have impressed upon the experimenter the great, unmanageable power at work, thus causing them to abandon the research. We can only imagine how the world might have changed had someone managed to successfully develop a practical use for steam power.

There are some waterways, roads, and bridges built by the Romans that are still being used in Europe today, two millennia after their construction. This fact alone is astonishing enough, but the more I learned about their careful and meticulous study of natural phenomena, the more my respect for these people grew.

I originally chose to draw *Thermae Romae* to reaffirm to myself the astonishing level of culture the Romans reached in infrastructure, art, and construction through our shared custom of the bath. But the more I study them, the more I am forced to admit that there is simply no way I can fully express the wonder of the ancient Romans in this manga alone.

Heron's aeolipile

Heron of Alexandria

For some reason, Lucius is on a long-term trip!! No longer a simple bather, Lucius is now an employee!! Now he's got to learn the ropes of his job!! Also, a horse is in love with Lucius!!

TRANSLATION NOTES

TITLE
Thermae The Latin term for "bath" in usage it corresponds to the large public bathhouses shown in the manga while individual baths found in the homes of the rich and powerful were called *balneae*

JAPANESE HONORIFICS
No honorific indicates familiarity or closeness. If used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult
-san The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific
-sama Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee
-chan An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity, used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender
-senpai A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers
-sensei A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high level professionals

PAGE 5
Ostia The harbor city of ancient Rome. The site of Ostia in Rome is now called Ostia Antica, as there is a modern suburb by the name of Ostia nearby. The ruins of Ostia are renowned as being some of the best preserved of any ancient Roman buildings

Garum A fermented fish sauce that was wildly popular and widely used in Roman cuisine. Fish intestines were salted and left in the sun for several months to cure, with select herbs added for particular flavors depending on the batch. Garum was also drunk watered-down as a cure-all for ailments and used for cosmetic purposes such as hair removal and skin care

PAGE 9
Lupanar: A Roman brothel, meaning "den of she-wolves" in Latin

PAGE 37
Manju A steamed dumpling bun with sweet bean paste inside. *Manju* are often sold outside hot springs with the iconic hot spring logo stamped onto them. Unlike hot spring eggs, these are not actually boiled in the hot spring water but are more like souvenirs to buy and bring back to family and co-workers, as is expected when one travels out of town

PAGE 54
Meandros A repeated design motif around the border of an object such as building or pottery. The name stems from the winding path of the Maeander River in Turkey, which is also the source of the English word "meander."

PAGE 61
Hideyo Noguchi: The man on the current thousand yen note, whom Lucius has confused for the emperor of Japan. Noguchi was a bacteriologist active at the turn of the 20th century who was renowned for identifying the bacteria responsible for syphilis and whose research into yellow fever helped produce a cure for leptospirosis

PAGE 71
As: A bronze Roman coin. The value varies depending on the time and criteria, but a rough estimate would place its value at a little less than 100 yen (or one US dollar)

Popina: A wine bar in ancient Rome that served drink and food to the lower classes, much like a pub

PAGE 76
Lararium: A household shrine in ancient Roman homes that housed the family's god of protection and fortune, known as a *lar familiáres*

PAGE 84
Procansul: The Senate-appointed governer of a Roman province

PAGE 85
Frigidarium: A cold bath. The Roman bathing style involved three separate baths of different temperatures: the caldarium, the tepidarium, and the frigidarium, in that order. The caldarium was the traditional hot bath; the tepidarium was a warm bath meant to be the most relaxing stage; and the frigidarium was a cold bath that closed the skin's pores after the effects of the hot baths

PAGE 86
Quadi and Marcomanni: Two major Germanic tribes heavily active during the early stages of the Roman Empire. Clashes with Roman forces led to the Marcomannic Wars from 166-180 AD, which were quite costly to the Empire

PAGE 116
Salve: Latin for "greetings."

PAGE 122
Sestertius: A bronze coin from the Roman Empire that was roughly equivalent to the value of a dollar or a euro. A loaf of bread or flagon of wine would cost from half to a whole sestertius (plural sestertii)

PAGE 124
Domus Aurea: The "Golden House," an enormous villa built by Emperor Nero following the famous fire of Rome in 64 AD that wiped out much of the palatial estates on Palatine Hill, an aristocratic neighborhood. Nero's Domus Aurea was an opulent, flamboyant home coated with gold, precious stones, and elaborate frescoes on nearly every surface. It was so extravagant that after Nero's death, his successors quickly dismantled and sold many of the decorations, lest they be embarrassed by his excess

PAGE 137
Yu-topia: The given name of the proposed hot spring in this chapter combines the word "utopia" with "*yu*," the Japanese word for "hot water." *Yu* is often synonymous with "bath" as well

PAGE 138
Koi: It's a well-known practice in Japan to draw the attention of koi fish by calling out "koi, koi, koi," which is a homophone for "come here."

PAGE 139
Koi fish types: Koi are classified based on their markings, with particular types bred for specific appearances. *Kumonryuu* feature black patterns on a white base, similar to black rain clouds. *Kawarigoi* is a catch all category for any distinct style that does not have its own traditional name

PAGE 143
Caracalla: The Baths of Caracalla were a massive leisure complex encompassing an expansive series of baths, lounges, lecture halls, and a library. They were built in the early 3rd century by Emperor Caracalla in Rome. The city of Bath in England was named for a famous bathing complex built by the Romans in the first century AD around a natural hot spring

PAGE 162
Welcome to Kyoto: In Japanese, the shirt says "*Kyoto dosue*," which is a Kyoto-dialect form of "*Kyoto desu*," or "This is Kyoto." The "*dosue*" sentence ending form is particularly associated to the form of Kyoto dialect spoken by *geisha* and *maiko* (apprentice *geisha*), which are most widely seen in Kyoto, the former capital and traditional culture center of Japan

PAGE 164
Kinkaku-ji: A Buddhist temple in Kyoto famous for both its extensive garden and the Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku) looming over a pond at the center of the complex. The temple building is coated in brilliant gold leaf lacquer which is said to purify fears and negative thoughts about death

Ogata Kourin: A 17th century Japanese painter who was renowned for his unique personal style of gold and lacquer folding screens

Kutani: A style of porcelain ware developed in the town of Kutani in Western Japan. The style was known for its vivid depictions of trees, flowers, mountains, and other natural subjects.

PAGE 171
Wabi: Short for "*wabi-sabi*," one of the unique concepts of traditional Japanese beauty. It stresses appreciation for the impermanence and frugality of natural things in contrast to the ideal perfection of Greek-based Western art. *Wabi-sabi* teaches the aesthetic value of longing and melancholy and is often distilled down to the definition of "flawed beauty."

PAGE 189
Toyotomi Hideyoshi: The successor to Oda Nobunaga during the Warring States period in the 16th century. Hideyoshi united a fractured Japan and constructed a new class system that remained in place for centuries. He also left a great influence on art and culture due to his fascination with the tea ceremony and its various implements, leading to great interest among the elite class in porcelain finery. He also created a golden portable tea room inspired by Kinkaku-ji that he could take with him wherever he traveled

PAGE 220
Memories of Hadrian: A French historical fiction novel written in 1951 by Marguerite Yourcenar. The book takes the form of a letter from Hadrian to his adopted written to his successor Marcus Aurelius in the letter Hadrian recounts many important events in his life

PAGE 243
Okami: A term of respect for the proprietress of a business, particularly as it relates to a *ryokan* (traditional inn) or restaurant. When written with Chinese characters, the characters mean "lady general."

PAGE 258
Scipio Africanus: One of the greatest Roman generals and military strategists, best known for soundly defeating Hannibal at the battle of Zama (in modern-day Tunisia)

Punic Wars: A series of wars between the Romans and Carthaginians around 200 BC, also known as "Hannibal's War" due to Hannibal's stunning leadership of the Carthaginian forces. The term "Punic" comes from the Roman term for "Phoenician," the ancestors of the Carthaginians

PAGE 259
SMAP A legendary boy band active throughout the 1990s and 2000s that found success not so much through their singing or dancing abilities but their overall charisma and individual personalities Takuya Kimura, nicknamed KimuTaku is the most widely popular of the five and his good looks and cool demeanor bolstered his status as a sex symbol

PAGE 260
Seneca A philosopher and dramatist who wrote in the Stoic style His tragedies when rediscovered in the Renaissance heavily influenced the stage writers of the time including Shakespeare

PAGE 274
Hoka Hoka A descriptive word meaning "steaming hot."

PAGE 294
Hanten A type of winter coat. They are typically worn open-chested as the kinds worn by employees of *ryokan* like this will have the name of the establishment printed vertically along the hem line

PAGE 332
BKA A parody of pop supergroup AKB48 a veritable factory for young female idol singers The group's name stands for Akihabara, the neighborhood of Tokyo where their agency's office is located and the 48 members of the group AKB48's signature hit single is "Aitakatta" ("I Wanted To See You") The chorus goes "Aitakatta, aitakatta aitakatta, YES!"

Research Assistance Ito Hot Spring Tourism Association
Ito Geisha Industry Union

Latin Assistance Beppi Chiuppani